

BAY AREA REPORTER

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What Everybody's After . . . the tickets to Sunday's Super Bowl, of course. (Photo: Rink)

Flight Attendants Win Bias Case In United Airlines AIDS Firing

Arbitrator Rules AIDS Employees Can't Be Dismissed; Says 'Casual Contact' Won't Spread the Disease

by George Mendenhall

A labor arbitrator has awarded Gar Traynor, who has AIDS, reinstatement to his job as a flight attendant for United Air Lines. In issuing the ruling, the arbitrator declared that people with AIDS could not be summarily dismissed due to their disease.

Traynor and another Gay flight attendant with AIDS, Bruce Hall of Chicago, also are to receive back pay, including vacation and sick leave, and full restoration of medical benefits. United had contended that no person with AIDS could continue in the airline's employ—because they might endanger themselves or passengers.



Good News on Bias Complaint has Gar Traynor, r., smiling—with his lover Bob Morana. (Photo: Rink)

Traynor was denied employment by United Airlines solely because he has AIDS. Scores of other airlines employees may be affected by the historic decision. Traynor says he knows of five other United flight attendants with AIDS who will welcome the decision.

Martin Wagner, a law professor at the University of Illinois, was the arbitrator who issued the ruling after lengthy union-company negotiations failed. He concluded that there is no medical evidence that justified United issuing a blanket denial of employment of all employees with AIDS. Wagner wrote that there is no reason to believe that there is a risk involved in retaining people with AIDS as employees. United was ordered to evaluate each person with AIDS on an individual basis—on the person's ability to work.

Traynor, who lives in San Francisco, is expecting a \$40,000 check shortly as his

(Continued on page 2)

Attackers Chase Man Into His Own Home

30 Club-Wielding Teenagers on Street; Five Rush In, Assault Gay Man

by Will Snyder

A Gay man living in the Western Addition was chased by 30 teenagers, then attacked by five of them who shoved their way into his home. The attackers fled upon discovering the man's roommates were in the home in the Friday, Jan. 11 incident.

The attack was the second of three anti-Gay experiences the 34-year-old man went through last weekend. He asked to withhold his name for fear of further attack. The other two incidents were verbal, anti-Gay slurs he heard on the 24 Divisadero bus to and from his home.

The weekend began innocently enough for the man. "I had gone down to the Castro Friday night for a little while. But around 11 p.m., I decided to come home," he said.

"So I got on the 24 Divisadero bus and started on my way home," he added. "While I was on the bus, I heard several guys in the back yell out, 'Faggots! I wish they would all die of AIDS.'"

That was the ominous beginning to a horrifying weekend for him. When he got off the bus to begin the trek to his home, he noticed something in the distance.

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IN THIS ISSUE

THUMBS DOWN to police, deputies who want co-workers with AIDS fired. City drafts policy to deal with "insubordination." Allen White looks at the problem, Ray O'Loughlin explains the solution, on page 3.

UNDER HER THUMB is where Mayor Feinstein wants to keep the new health commission. It will take charge of the health department. Page 5.

THUMBS UP for the 49ers as the Big Game nears. We have the scoop on party plans for Super Sunday, page 12.

THUMBLING THEIR NOSES at San Francisco's fundamentalists. As Gay rights referendum nears, they're calling the police chief a most extraordinary name. Will Snyder reports on page 13.

Atlas' New Prez: More Gay Loans

James Bowersox Takes Charge As '84 Shows Loan Losses

by Gregory Douthwaite

Atlas Savings & Loan Association has its first Gay president, James H. Bowersox, and he pledges to increase lending to the Gay community.

"To the extent of our ability to fund prudent lending activity in the community, we will do it," he said. "We get a great deal of investors' funds from the Gay community, and we're obliged to put the money back where we got it."

Atlas will be actively seeking loan business in the Gay community for residential mortgages and consumer items, such as automobiles, Bowersox said.

He explained that this is a change in bank policy. "We have been involved in some real estate ventures outside our trade area," he said. "We want to come back home."

Some of those loans, to large apartment joint ventures, have added up to an expected loss of \$116,000 for 1984—a big change from the previous year. In 1983 the bank posted a

(Continued on page 4)



James Bowersox

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Gay Vet Taylor Shoots Self As Protest at D.C. Memorial

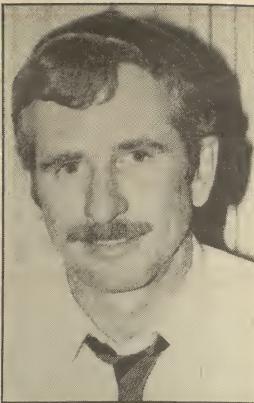
by George Mendenhall

"This is my last hurrah!" Randy Taylor told a few reporters who attended his July 18, 1984, press conference here. The former cop and Vietnam veteran then dropped out of sight. Tuesday at 3 a.m. he shot himself in the chest at a Vietnam memorial statue in Washington, D.C., in an attempt to bring attention to the needs of veterans. Hospital officials say he is recovering.

Taylor, 37, surfaced in the Gay community here in 1980 when he had difficulty getting into the police academy after passing a civil service test. A police psychiatrist ruled that he was competent although he suffered from a stress disorder after 42 months in Vietnam. In 1982 Taylor retained an attorney when he was dropped from the police training program after his academy graduation. Although Taylor never filed formal charges against the police

department, he took his case to the Gay community. The ex-cop claimed that he had been evaluated unfairly by anti-Gay officers.

Vietnam veteran rights then became Taylor's primary concern. He fasted for 39 days in 1984 when the Democratic Party would not allow him to address the San Francisco convention on veterans issues. The fast ended when the ex-Marine was



Gay Vet Randy Taylor (Photo: Rink)

told that Gov. John Kerry (D-Nebraska) would address those issues from the floor. Kerry did speak—but not on veterans' issues. ■

arbitrator's decision. Conant had contacted those involved and written: "I now have patients who were diagnosed in the Fall of 1981, who have continued to work on a regular basis. Individuals who are diagnosed with one of the life-threatening opportunistic infections often must be hospitalized for treatment, but in these instances, too, a large portion of the patients have been able to return to full employment once their opportunistic infection has been treated."

John Lorenzini, president of People with AIDS in San Francisco, also influenced the Chicago decision. He widely publicized the United Air Lines cases after it was first reported in this newspaper on November 14, 1984. Lorenzini called for a national Lesbian and Gay boycott of United until the matter was resolved favorably.

Traynor leads a relatively quiet life in San Francisco. He commented, "My lover is wonderful and he was very supportive. It was smart of us to move here from Los Angeles in December. My lover got a good job and we have lots of friends and a good support system." ■

G. Mendenhall

A Flight Attendant Wins

(Continued from page 1)

financial award. He has been off work for 18 months. Would he return to work at United? "I will make that decision later. Right now, I am at a loss with United. There is a big credibility gap there."

Bruce Hall, who recently contracted tuberculosis, is not able to work at this time. He said, "The United decision shows that there is justice in the world—a little, anyway. I hope the company learned their lesson. That they can't discriminate because of disease or sexual preference."

Hall also lives with his lover, Timothy, and is attempting to continue his community work, assisting recovered addicts and alcoholics "although I am really too ill to do much of anything." He states that someday he would like to go back with United "because I really loved that job."

A SUPPORT SYSTEM

Crucial to the United cases was the early support given by the 23,000 member Association of Flight Attendants. The union

attorney, Marilyn Pearson, fought the AIDS discrimination case in Chicago, where United is headquartered.

Pearson said, "The union is very pleased with the decision. We thought it was a very important decision. The company tried to make a blanket medical policy for an entire class of people. That is discriminatory and not medically sound. They now must look at each individual."

Pearson stressed that United's chief physician, C.R. Harper, removed Traynor from his position but is no longer with the company. Harper had said that since AIDS "is a relatively new disease and is communicable" it was dangerous both to the person with AIDS and United passengers and employees to be associated with one another. United has a new chief physician, Gary Kohn, who states the company will now consider people with AIDS "on a case-by-case" basis.

Dr. Marcus Conant, Director of the AIDS Clinical Research Center at UC Medical Center here, may have influenced the

Attackers Invade Home

(Continued from page 1)

tance which convinced him trouble was ahead.

"I could see there were 30 people, all young Blacks I think, in their late teens," he said. "A few of them were carrying baseball bats."

His first reaction was to debate with himself. He couldn't decide whether to walk as calmly as possible or run, because "they seemed to be out to kill." He decided to walk quickly but try and maintain his composure.

But by the time he got to his home, he realized the trouble wasn't over. "When I got to the top of the stairs, I realized they hadn't given up, that they were actually following me right up to the door."

He fumbled with his keys when he realized he had another problem. "I have three keys which all look alike," he said. "I thought to myself that I had better find the right key right away, or else."

The first key didn't work. He frantically grabbed at another key. This one fit, but as he turned the key and began to push at the door, someone right behind him pushed the door for him.

"It was one of them," he said. "I ran into the house, into the living room," he said, "but five or six of them followed me right into the house."

The assailants landed two punches on the man, who started yelling and screaming like mad." The man's roommates came running down the stairs and the assailants fled from the house. The attack was over.

"Had my roommates not been home," he said, "I'm sure the rest of them would have

come in the house. I might have been dead."

The man, who said he sustained only a black eye out of the whole incident, stayed inside his house until Sunday, when he decided to go to a bar in the South of Market area. Again, he heard anti-Gay taunts.

The Friday night attack was the second within six months for the Gay man. The first was on another 24 bus. That time his injury required stitches. However, he insisted the latest attack was much scarier.

"People actually came into my own home," he said soberly, "people who seemed to have a lot more on their minds than just hurting someone." ■

W. Snyder

Gay Vets Win Legion Charter

The Alexander Hamilton veterans organization has been approved for membership in the American Legion by the Eighth District Committee. The Alexander Hamilton organization is composed of veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and includes a large number of Gay veterans. The prospective Legion Post's charter must be approved at the state level, which should occur in March, and is almost automatic, according to Commander Paul D. Hardman.

Hardman and Judge John Wahl also announced their participation in the drive to recover the Veterans Building for veterans' uses. Over the years the Museum of Modern Art has gradually taken up most of the

space in the Veterans Building. Wahl noted that he and Public Advocates are representing a coalition of veterans in the move to recover the building which is legally dedicated to veterans' use. ■

Cops, Deputies Protest Co-Workers With AIDS; Prompts City Policy

by Allen White

Increased education of public employees with AIDS is one action resulting from two petitions circulated among San Francisco sheriff's deputies. Supervisor John Molinari has asked to meet with the Mayor as early as next week to set up a program to require all city department heads and middle management to take a course on AIDS.

For the last few weeks there have been petitions moving among deputy sheriffs at the Hall of Justice. The first petition reportedly asked that a deputy with AIDS be isolated from working around other law enforcement officers.

The second petition, in the form of a letter to a newspaper columnist, is a statement of support for a deputy sheriff who has AIDS. The second petition states, "We feel that this unnecessary prejudice and harassment is due to the ignorance of a select few and we pity them in their ignorance."



John Molinari

Sheriff Mike Hennessey said that neither petition has ever been officially presented to the administration of the Sheriff's Department.

Concerns which had earlier appeared in the Police Department caused Supervisor John Molinari to request a ruling regarding people who refuse to work with a person who had been diagnosed with AIDS. The official response was that to refuse to work with a person who has AIDS is "insubordination." Under the civil service rules, that would mean that an employee who took such action could face a hearing and possibly be dismissed from their job.

This week, Molinari sent a letter to Dianne Feinstein requesting a procedure be put in place to train all managers working for the city. The request followed a meeting on Monday with Pat Norman and Gary Titus of the Department of Public Health.

Molinari said the training would be required for two primary reasons. Molinari's first concern is with the person with AIDS. Second, Molinari believes it is important that management know how to work with employees who come in contact with a fellow employee



John Nazarian (Photo: Rink)

who has AIDS. In spite of all the material distributed, he believes many people are still in need of a much more solid educational foundation regarding the subject.

Molinari acknowledged that the problems may become much more prevalent in the private sector. Yet he also believes city government should set an example for private business.

In San Francisco, one depu-

ty who was incensed at the first petition was John Nazarian. He said he believes AIDS is an excuse for homophobic deputies "who don't like their job to use this as an opportune time to jump on a bandwagon to vent their frustrations against people they don't like anyhow. "I think it is a sad sad situation," he said, "when they take advantage of a person who is living day by day."

City Employees Can't Refuse To Work With People With AIDS

by Ray O'Loughlin

San Francisco's Civil Service Commission has ruled that city employees who refuse to work with co-workers having AIDS may be guilty of insubordination and are therefore subject to disciplinary action.

In a letter dated Jan. 3, John J. Walsh, personnel manager for the Civil Service Commission, wrote to John L. Taylor, clerk of the Board of Supervisors, "The preponderance of current medical opinion indicates that persons with AIDS do no present risk factors in the normal course of their employment environment or work activities. Therefore, refusal by a co-worker to work with an AIDS victim can be considered insubordination. If other co-workers refuse to work as a result simply because of the presence of an AIDS victim they are subject to due process disciplinary procedures."

Current Civil Service Commission sick leave policy provides that city employees may be placed on compulsory sick leave if that employee "represents a risk to co-workers, the public and the employee."

'Persons with AIDS do not present risk factors in the normal course of their employment environment.'

Civil Service Ruling

Walsh cited a recent Superior Court ruling that overturned a decision to place an employee on compulsory sick leave. That case did not involve AIDS, said Walsh, but the court did address the specific issue of risk to co-workers. The court ruled in favor of the employee because "there unquestionably was no reason to believe that the petitioner might represent a risk to himself or to co-workers or the public if allowed to continue his employment."

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By DR. RICK PETTIT

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God Save the Crown... and praise be, the crown is safe after hold-up at Atlas S & L. Empress Remy is among those relieved. (Photo: Rink)

New Prez

At Atlas

(Continued from page 1)

\$830,000 profit. The full picture will emerge next month when Atlas releases its annual report to stockholders.

Bowersox, 57, became Atlas' third president on Nov. 1, after his predecessor, Harlan Mowbray, suffered a heart attack.

The president of America's first Gay-owned and operated bank is short for words when discussing his being Gay. "I live alone, always have; enjoy it." He added, "The important thing is not what my interests are, but what kind of job I can do for Atlas."

Bowersox has worked for more than 10 years in San Francisco banks, including First Interstate and California Canadian. Most recently, he was Executive Vice President of the Nevada National Bank in Reno. He said his is very happy to return to San Francisco, where he owns property.

Bowersox was in San Francisco when Atlas first opened, in November 1981. When he returned to take the job, he was very pleased to see how successful Atlas had become, he said.

Atlas is no giant in the financial world, but with assets over \$100 million after three years of operations, it is one of the fastest growing savings and loan associations in the nation.

Atlas opened a new branch office on Bush Street in the financial district late last year, and Bowersox said it takes in over a million dollars a month in deposits already.

A new corporate headquarters is under construction on Castro Street, and it is scheduled to open in late March. The crowded branch office on 18th Street will move into the more spacious, \$2 million building.

Traffic surveys estimate that 10,000 people a day walk by the Castro Street location. With two automated tellers on the street, and two merchant windows, Bowersox predicts a significant increase in both individual and business customers.

Atlas is having no trouble paying for the new building, which is 65 percent completed. "As quickly as the contractor can get the work done, we pay for it," Bowersox said.

Atlas plans to join the automated teller network by the end of the year, Bowersox said. The Atlas bank card will then enable the holder to withdraw cash from more than 2,000 automated teller machines throughout California.

Atlas has no plans yet to expand nationwide, although depositors now bank by mail from all 50 states and nine foreign countries. "I think before we start going across the country, we better make sure we're doing a good job at home," Bowersox said. However, Atlas is interested in expanding to southern California.

G. Douthwaite

Quit Smoking Clinic

For smokers who are serious about quitting, the San Francisco Department of Public Health will offer a 10 session QUIT SMOKING CLINIC starting on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Health Center #1, located at 3350 17th Street.

The fee for the clinic is \$25.00 and includes all materials. Advance registration is required as class size is limited. For more information, call 558-2036, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



New Health Board is named by Mayor (r.), includes Gay activist Jim Foster (far l.). (Photo: Rink)

'Capt.' Feinstein to Run Tight Ship For Appointees to New Health Panel

'No Loose Cannons on Deck,' says the Mayor As Commission Takes Helm of Health Dept.

by Ray O'Loughlin

Mayor Dianne Feinstein last Thursday named her seven appointments to the city's new Health Commission. One Gay man, community activist Jim Foster, was appointed to the board.

Controversy greeted the new commissioners almost immediately as questions were asked about possible conflicts of interest, the degree of independence to be allowed commissioners, and the distribution of resources to meet the gamut of health needs in the city—especially the AIDS epidemic.

Feinstein said she was naming "problem solvers, not problem makers" to the panel created by city voters in November. The panel will oversee the city's largest division, the Department of Public Health, with 5,000 employees and an annual budget of \$270 million.

Jim Foster has been active in Gay community causes for two decades. He was instrumental in beginning VD education and testing campaigns in San Francisco through the Society for Individual Rights (SIR) in the 1960's. He was also a founder of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, the first such political club in the country. He felt it was those "community credentials" that got him named to the Health Commission. According to the mayor, the AIDS crisis will be Foster's special assignment.

Foster said, "What the mayor has done is recognized that partnership that exists between communities and the city government. By involving us in the process of the AIDS crisis, she is clearly recognizing our right and our need to participate."



Mayor Dianne Feinstein (Photo: Rink)

Pointing to an anticipated AIDS caseload of more than 7,000 in the city by 1987, Foster said, "As the crisis expands to disastrous proportions, (while) federal funding and possibly state funding also are reduced, we really need to look at a co-operative partnership with the rest of the city to create a resource for fund raising... to meet needs that are not going to be met by this administration whether in Washington or Sacramento."

On the bathhouse closure issue, Foster had little to say, contending that it was now in the courts and "moot" as far as the Health Commission was concerned. He told reporters that a preoccupation with the baths "is going to shift the focus from where it absolutely must be kept, which is Margaret Heckler's desk in Washington, D.C." Heckler is head of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, which has been accused of stalling funds appropriated for AIDS research.

Like it or not, the closure of the baths immediately became an issue as the Committee to Preserve Our Sexual and Civil Liberties demanded the Health

Commission immediately re-open the matter of regulating sexual activities in commercial sex clubs. In a Jan. 15 statement, the committee, headed by Randy Stallings, urged that the city cease all attempts at regulating the clubs and baths and that public hearing be held on any proposed regulations.

In introducing the commission, Feinstein emphasized that "sound management is a priority." She said she expected the commissioners to be "militant" in rooting out waste from the sprawling department while being "stalwart" in seeing that "the dollars deliver quality

health care." The budget, said the mayor, was to be "the first consideration" for the commission.

Although the Health Commission will devise a budget for all city health care services, including San Francisco General Hospital, Feinstein has already made it clear that the commission is to operate "in concert with this office." There are to be "no rolling canons on the deck of this ship," said Feinstein.

Feinstein said she decided to name Dr. Philip Lee as president of the panel—with each member's concurrence—before the commission even met. She also pre-empted one of their first significant tasks—the hiring of a new director for the health department—by publicly stating she hoped that Dr. David Werdegar, interim director, would be named to the job.

Anticipating mayoral domination of the commission, proponents of the plan designed it with a degree of autonomy. Like the Civil Service and Public Utilities Commissions, commissioners have specified terms of office (4 years) and can be removed only by demonstrated malfeasance in office, a move requiring nine votes from the Board of Supervisors. Other city commissioners serve at the discretion of the mayor.

Questions were also raised as to whether the commission would have adequate staff to do its immense job. Plans call for the hiring of one secretary for the commission. Foster said he thought that would not be a handicap. Explaining that the job would not be merely clerical, said "We'll be looking for someone familiar with City Hall."

Concern was also expressed over the issue of conflicts of interest for some commission appointees. A number are affiliated with the University of California Medical Center, which maintains contracts with the city for services. Feinstein told reporters that the City Attorney's office had been consulted on the matter and found no basis for conflict.

Appointed to the commission, in addition to Foster, were: Dr. Philip Lee of the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine; John Blumlein, a financial analyst with Sutro & Co.; Naomi Gray, a management consultant who had served on the Mayor's Task Force on Domestic Partners; Dr. Richard Sanchez of St. Luke's Hospital and on the UCSF faculty; Dr. Y. Clement Shek, a dentist active in the Chinese community; and Rosabelle Tobriner, a member of the Health Care Advisory Committee of the Department of Public Health.

Commission members were sworn in Jan. 15. ■

Research Subjects Sought

Researcher, Jay Paul, is currently looking for 18-28 year old women and men with a gay, lesbian or bisexual parent to participate in his study.

Anyone interested in either learning more about the study or in participating, may contact Jay Paul either through The Psychology Clinic, 2203 Tolman Hall, UC-Berkeley (642-2055), or through his answering service (841-6500, box 526). ■

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VOL. XV NO. 3 JANUARY 17, 1985

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

Just Following Orders

And so we have been quarantined.

This portentous act transpired, not to meet the peril of invading infection, but to soothe the wounds of federal lawyers who lost a court case. The court case had to do with foreign Gay people and their ability to immigrate into the United States. The lawyers tried to use the law to keep the foreign Gays out, and they failed.

No problem. They used medicine instead.

The readiness to which the doctors snapped-to and marched to the lawyers' orders should scare the living hell out of each one of us.

We're no longer talking here about problems imagined, future horrors, things which might be. We are talking about Federal Memorandum of Quarantine #84-8, issued June 8, 1984 by the federal Centers for Disease Control. It is simple and direct. It states that "self-professed homosexuals" are to be medically excluded from entering the Pacific seaboard states. (This odd quirk of geography has to do with the area covered by the court case which began the whole affair.) Incredibly, the doctors of the Public Health Service are specifically told *not* to medically examine Gay and Lesbian immigrants. One's being Gay in itself, is enough to warrant a medical exclusion.

The form on which all this is to be recorded is usually used for such conditions as tuberculosis and smallpox.

Several points arise.

First and foremost: the Centers for Disease Control is not our friend. This is disquieting indeed. No single Federal agency is more important to the fight against AIDS. The CDC has gone to great lengths to earn the trust of the Gay community. Lately, it has gone to even greater lengths to violate that trust.

It no longer matters what the doctors at CDC think, feel or believe. They say they believe it is wrong to quarantine Gays. And yet they have done it. They have abrogated the ethics of their profession, they have destroyed their relationship with the Gay community, they have taken an action which is in direct contradiction to the knowledge of their own medical science—and why? They are just following orders.

It is disturbing—but important—to wonder what orders the CDC will be following next. The critical barrier has been breached: Politics is now dictating medical policy at the nation's highest level.

This leads to a second consideration. It is now official government policy that Gays and Lesbians are sick. The reinstatement of "homosexuality" as a disease, as opposed to Gays and Lesbians as a people, proceeds rapidly. We have noticed that the daily papers are switching from "Gay"—our word—to "homosexual." That word was created to define an illness, and always carries with it the medical stamp of sickness.

It is easier to wipe out a disease than a people.

What prescription will the doctors be writing?

A final thought turns to what we might do about all this. There seems little doubt the political fallout of the AIDS epidemic may become as threatening as the epidemic itself. We must face the political crisis the same way we have faced the medical one. We must no longer deny the tremendous struggle we are up against. Faced with the spectre of quarantine, most of us want to believe it just couldn't happen here. Guess what? It already is.

But, ah, you say, it's only quarantine of *foreign* Gays, and only a few states.

Today. .

Brian Jones

B.A.R.

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Confidentiality Assurances

★ The following was sent to Dr. Dennis McShane, president of Bay Area physicians for Human Rights (BAPHR).

As a member of BAPHR, as a Gay man, and as Project Director of The San Francisco Men's Health Study conducted by the University of California at Berkeley on the natural history of AIDS, I feel compelled to denounce the BAPHR Guest Column published in the *Bay Area Reporter* on December 27, 1984. You have, in effect, called for a moratorium on all current AIDS research. This action, however well-intentioned, is a callous and irresponsible one in the fact of the grave epidemic which we face.

Currently, the only agency which has Assurance of Confidentiality is the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Assurances of Confidentiality granted to any other agency or group would require federal legislation, which is currently being sought by NGTF and other groups. More importantly, the Certificate of Confidentiality provided to our study, along with our informed consent form which specifies our pledge to uphold the confidential participation of all of our research subjects, is seen as equally protective and an Assurance of Confidentiality by the National Gay Task Force and our attorneys. Indeed the NGTF worked with us in the beginning of our study to obtain the Certificate of Confidentiality.

If BAPHR is going to make public health pronouncements regarding participation in AIDS research, then it should assume the responsibility for making statements based on complete and accurate information. It would be a tragic irony if the AIDS research effort were undermined by a group of physicians who joined under the banner of promoting Gay men's health. Think about it.

David Lyman, M.D., M.P.H.
S.F. Men's Health Study

Ku Klux Klan on TV

★ John Kass ("Gay TV's demise," Jan. 3) is to be congratulated for doing what none of us have been able to do in the past few months: prove conclusively that Viacom Cable does have a policy of censorship.

Viacom Cable has been broadcasting, and continues to broadcast, a Ku Klux Klan/Nazi sponsored show called "Race and Reason." Despite a letter-writing and phone-in campaign as well as demonstrations at the Viacom offices to get this anti-Semitic, anti-Black, racist smut off the air, Viacom has stuck to its original argument: that cable television is public access available to anyone who requests time, including of course, such nice people the Klan and the Nazis.

Need I say more? The director of public relations at Viacom is a (perhaps) well-meaning person. Give her a call at 863-8500. Demand an end to the Klan/Nazi programming as a threat to all of our lives, and let's get Gay erotica back where it belongs: on the screens of our televisions.

David Millstein
San Francisco

No Safety in Respectability

★ We are writing to support the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence for being who they are and for saying what they are saying, in their time of reassessment. In George Mendenhall's article, (BAR 1/3), they have raised many important questions that affect not only the Sisters, but all of us.

Questions Health Commission

★ The news has just come out that Dianne Feinstein has appointed her voter-mandated Health Commission to oversee the Department of Public Health. Only one of the seven appointees is not in some way associated with U.C. Hospital (which, in turn, is more closely connected with San Francisco General). The same institution which has relinquished a senior member to head the troubled Health Department in Dr. Silverman's wake.

Once again, it seems, our illustrious mayor has demonstrated her total lack of concern for the majority of people living in this city, and furthermore has shown the voters here (and in the rest of California) her disregard for any sense of propriety in view of the serious conflict of interest arising from such close connections.

Not only will the Health Department be at the mercy of seven people whose first question in their interviews is "Will you be loyal to the mayor?", but now it seems that U.C. Hospital and its affiliates are running the entire health system in this city. Perhaps our next concern should be something along the lines of U.C. seeking to further its real estate interests, something it has done quite forthrightly in the past, in the name of expanding health facilities for the city.

Although a recall would be absurd, we need to begin now to let this lame duck mayor know that her "fuck you" attitude toward San Francisco will be more than a hindrance in her bid for Senator Cranston's seat in 1986.

Name Withheld by Request
San Francisco

Letter Policy

★ The *BAY AREA REPORTER* welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.

LETTERS

... On Gays and Churches

★ It is time to dispel the notion that Christianity and homosexuality are mutually exclusive of each other. Time and again we bear witness to the enunciations of the established press that to be an enlightened advocate of Gay rights means conformity to a stereotypical view and practice of life. While it is historical fact that men have persecuted men in the name of God and country, it is also historical fact that Christians and Jews have been persecuted for upholding a belief in God.

I for one am a Roman Catholic who believes in God and his unconditional love for all mankind. While many struggle with theological debate, the ultimate message of "love thy neighbor as thyself" becomes muddled by those zealots who wish to validate their point of view by invalidating that of their brothers.

As gay men, we are faced with the challenge to bring about the eradication of bigotry in every established institution of society whether it be family, church, or government. We must insist on our right to express our choice of lifestyle by walking into these institutions through the front door and demand that the dignity afforded to one must be afforded to all.

My choice of faith is one I cherish like my choice of lifestyle. My lifestyle will not be a barrier to God but a road to God.

For me being Gay does not invalidate my right to be an American, to be a Catholic, or to be a member of this community.

Chris Sandoval
San Francisco

★ An entry for the "Name That Church" contest. Enclosed please find two "formal and official" brochures on the subject of the Bible and homosexuality. One, "Free To Be Gay" is our local publication from MCC of San Francisco. The other, "Homosexuality: What the Bible Does and Does Not Say" is published by our international denominational offices, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our denomination has openly and often asserted, since our founding, that it is tradition, not the Christian faith itself, which condemns homosexual people. "Gay is good," was a belief which was at the base of our formation, and it still is. We invite you, and all our sisters and brothers (gay and nongay) to come by and join in the celebration of our love and joy and freedom under God.

According to the requirements for one to find the Grail (which were fairly sexist and anti-sexual, for one thing), I don't know that we should sit waiting for the grand prize to be located. But that's okay. Your "Editor's Note" reminded us of the need to let folks know that there's good news in place of the old traditional bad news the Church has offered. And some of the places to find it are in the eight MCC's in the Bay Area.

The Reverend Michael E. England
Pastor, MCC of San Francisco

★ The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is a Christian group including individuals with a wide spectrum of beliefs and lifestyles. In 1971 the San Francisco Friends Meeting declared:

"We believe that the same standards of judgment in matters of morality and acceptable behavior which we apply to homosexual persons. We advocate passage of legislation which would extend this principle to all levels of social and economic life. The same principle should apply when we consider requests from homosexuals for marriage under the care of the Meeting."

The San Francisco Meeting is part of a regional association known as Pacific Yearly Meeting, which in 1972 approved the following:

"Now more aware of the socially inflicted suffering of people who love others of the same sex, we affirm the power and joy of non-exploitive, loving relationships. As a Society and as individuals, we oppose arbitrary social, economic or legal abridgement of the right to share this love."

Quakers aren't perfect, and these statements don't reflect the views of all Quaker groups. But they do show that at least one portion of the Christian community has decided that lesbians and gay men count. It is possible for anyone, regardless of his or her sexual orientation, to be good, just as it is possible for anyone to be evil.

Sam Cox
San Francisco

★ After reading your recent article on religious structures and their approval/disapproval of the gay lifeform, I must take exception with your implied premise that 1) gay persons seek, need or should have sanction from any religious organization/denomination; and 2) that there is no existent denominational structure that provides such to those who do need it.

It has long been my conviction that the only sanction anyone needs for any action or direction in life is

God's. More often than not, it is adherence to the man-made structure of "religion" that has created a rift of guilt and fear between God and personkind, not a personal relationship with Christ.

For those who seek such a format, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has for the last 17 years provided a denominational structure in which an individual (gay, bisexual or straight) may exercise his/her faith and relationship to God, providing not only sanction but encouragement. Many of us could not have dealt as successfully with our feelings of guilt and society's intolerance without its influence.

Stephen Thomas
San Francisco

★ Your Jan. 3rd challenge to name a church which officially states that gay is good is no challenge at all. Metropolitan Community Church has been saying it, preaching it, teaching it, and living it for 17 years. As an editor, I am surprised that you are not familiar with our church. Frankly, I don't think that you care there is a church out there that was in existence before Stonewall, was at the forefront of gay liberation, whose founder has been featured in several national magazines, whose founder's and clergy's lives have been threatened because of them daring to be Christian and gay, and who speak with vitality of the love God has for them.

Reverend Robert E. Pierce
Assistant Pastor, GGMCC
San Francisco

False Medical Claims

★ The following was sent to the California State Board of Medical Quality Assurance.

As per our telephone conversation earlier today, I am enclosing the advertisement run by Mr. Steve Perkins. It is clear from the content of this advertisement, as well as earlier advertisements in which he specifically called his "treatments" by the medical term of "colonic irrigation," that Mr. Perkins is engaging in a medical practice without a license.

As someone who has ministered in the Gay community since 1955, I am very concerned about the health of my brothers and sisters. As someone who has now lost 39 friends to death by AIDS (and still counting), I am extremely saddened by those who would fulfill their acquisitive drive at the expense of persons who are in a state of panic about this epidemic, by indulging in such pseudo-scientific quackery and (in the case of the papers which accept such advertising) by publicizing such quackery for a profit. As someone who has been diagnosed with an ARC (AIDS-related Condition), I am furious at such exploitation.

The Rt. Rev'd Mikhail-Francis Itkin,
Bishop-Prior
Syro-Chaldean Community
of the Love of Christ

Gays and Housing

★ The scarcity of affordable housing in San Francisco affects Gays, and the problem is getting worse.

The so-called "Downtown Plan" is merely a ploy to get rid of undesirable social elements (such as seniors, low-income gays, ethnic minorities, etc.) This well-engineered scheme, which could be defined as "systematic gentrification," would price out of the city all of those who couldn't pay the skyrocketing rents.

The Planning Commission members who are not accountable to city voters, are compounding the problem of housing by approving virtually every highrise project brought to them by developers. The old, tired rip service from developers that "progress must be served" as if it was manifest destiny, is unmitigated bullshit! "Greed" is what's being served!

Gays too, have a stake in this city and we shouldn't let the wholesale destruction of it continue unchecked.

Ed Dollak
San Francisco

Shanti Needs Volunteers

★ Thank you for your coverage of Shanti Project in recent news stories and columns. Recently, we requested your help in communicating to your readership that we need additional volunteers for our emotional support peer counseling program and practical support program. Many of your readers responded and we are grateful for your assistance.

Although we are still in need of volunteers to provide support to persons with AIDS and their loved ones, we currently have a special need for practical support volunteers who can help out weekdays during the daytime. Practical support volunteers do the everyday, vitally important task for persons with AIDS such as cooking, cleaning and shopping.

Please ask any of your readers who are interested in volunteering at Shanti Project to call us at 558-9644

Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. for more information.

Jim Rulon
Shanti Project

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LETTERS

Severe Degeneration

★ In your January 10, 1985 issue Phil Bennington responded to my "Another Funeral" letter. My response to him is as follows:

You asked if I had "my head up my ass not to notice San Francisco's rise." First of all your class-less remark only reaffirms my position in that it shows what rude people are now living in SF. Therefore, this accredits my statement of the "death" of the SF Gay lifestyle by showing how little, if any, the survivors of our recent holocaust are actually enjoying themselves in a city which has undergone severe degeneration.

Dianne Feinstein, which most of the Gay population supported, has now turned her back on the Gay community. She is now going a step further by taking our well-deserved freedom away, one by one.

San Diego & LA have rejected the mayor's ideas as being harmful to their gay community. That should be evidence enough for those who are still unsure of their stand on the bathhouse issue. Kathy Whitmire, Houston's mayor, volunteered to sit in a squad car across from the Gay Christmas lighting ceremony to witness straight by the hundreds harassing the gays and honking their horns to drown out the carolling. She then officially stated that she will in the future preside over these events as well as close the streets to traffic.

I hope that this will show you, Mr. Bennington, that my head has not been up my ass but rather observing facts presented to me by authorized sources. San Francisco still shows a rapid decline unless all Gays and Lesbians take a stand. We all helped to make this city great and to maintain its greatness and appeal to future gays, we are the ones who must wage our wars.

Roger Keaton
San Francisco

Is Gay Mecca Dead?

★ So, Roger Keaton feels we should hold another funeral because San Francisco Gay life is dead! I don't think Mr. Keaton is the same person he was five years ago, neither is San Francisco the same city, nor for that matter are any of us the same person.

San Francisco has been the Gay mecca for many years and will always be a leader in the Gay lifestyle. The Lesbians and Gay men who came here in the 70's are still here. They are what has made San Francisco Gay life what it is today. Today they are more mellow with themselves and happy with life. We all do mature and hopefully become happier with ourselves and our lives. You find more married gay couples today in San Francisco than you did ten to fifteen years ago. More gay couples, less cruising and promiscuity.

I don't think the gay mecca is dead, just matured like the rest of us.

Doug Coates
San Francisco

Not 22 Forever

★ In response to Roger Keaton's letter, (BAR 1/3/85), I maintain that gay life in San Francisco is not dead; it is changing. We all remember the hundreds of beautiful men out on Castro, cruising like there was no tomorrow. Those days are gone, maybe for good. Thank God! These days it seems like gay men in the city are discovering the importance of their friends, discovering the joy of nurturing a one-on-one relationship. Of course, AIDS is in large part responsible for this change in attitude, though I like to believe that it is also caused by a maturation process. Sowing your wild oats is fun, but face it, you're not 22 forever.

Mr. Keaton, I'm sorry that you find San Francisco so boring, but did you ever think that perhaps it's time to wake up and smell the coffee? Of course, if you still find it absolutely necessary to continue to re-live your adolescence, you can always run off to one of the cities you named in your letter, where they pretend AIDS doesn't exist and the music goes on and on.

Patrick Carroll
San Francisco

Stand Up and Fight

★ After reading an article in today's Chronicle I must admit that I am "MAD AS HELL." The article was about a social psychologist hoping to stem the spread of AIDS by putting homosexuals under a quarantine. This has got to be one of the most ludicrous ideas I have ever heard but still warrants thought from each of us if this is the type of mentality we will be dealing with in the future.

We as a community should stop sitting on our butts and allowing people of this mentality to ruin our futures. It is time for us to stand up and fight (if necessary) to show this country that we have taken as much as we are going to. If not, our future may be paved with more hardship, discrimination and persecution. We have all become very passive in our day to day lives. This has been proven by our allowing the city government to take one of our freedoms away. This freedom is that of choosing our own destiny. The bathhouse controversy is only one of the many that will arise (with our defeat) unless we stand up and revolt.

Billy Huston
San Francisco

Proposed Solution

★ I was distressed to read that the American Civil Liberties Union is getting involved in the blood screening situation. I support the ACLU's belief in the integrity of the First Amendment.

I can see the need for protection of people's personal medical histories from subpoenas. It's gotten so bad that doctors are beginning to keep medical histories in their heads rather than have evidence which later can be used against their patients. However, when it comes to protection of the blood supply, I can understand why the blood people want full information about donors. The best solution, though certainly not a good one, is for Gay men in the high risk categories to stop donating any blood whatsoever. It's unfortunate, but it's far better than risking the injection of the AIDS virus into the blood supply, and it's better than helping the government compile information which can be used against citizens.

David Kaye
San Francisco

Anti-Love

★ I am appalled by the anti-life, anti-love, internalized homophobia expressed in Ed Lorimer's letter of January 10. Sex based on hate? Where I come from, that's called rape.

So the word "gay" doesn't describe homosexuality to you, Mr. Lorimer, but the "plastic alcoholic happy-face we . . . put on to cover up the frustration we feel from not getting what we really want." What do we really want, and what word would you use to describe us?

One should not judge others on how "unsexy" they appear to oneself. And, speaking of "real men," to me the phrase means those who have the strength and the courage to be gentle, free, and *themselves*.

Love is the grease which turns the wheels of the Universe, and it's the only thing that'll save us.

Sparrow Laughing Wind
San Francisco

Applauds Mobilization

★ The following was sent to Paul Boneberg of the Mobilization Against AIDS.

I am glad that you dropped by my office today to express your support for the work I have been doing to improve the response to the AIDS crisis.

I currently have before the Governor an urgent request for an emergency supplemental appropriation of \$1 million for AIDS education, as well as a request that he submit a budget of \$5 million in next year's budget for AIDS education.

I also am studying proposals for legislative action to insure confidentiality and an end to discrimination for those deemed at risk for AIDS.

As you know, my most direct opportunity to act on the AIDS crisis has come through my position as chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health and Welfare. In that capacity, I have acted and will continue to act to provide leadership in this state's response to all elements of the AIDS crisis.

I am now in contact with state legislators in New York, Florida and Texas about their state's responses to the AIDS crisis, and will be working with them to establish more firmly the state-federal partnership needed to provide an effective response in all areas. I anticipate that this effort, a first-of-its-kind, will prove key both in our state and national response.

Your support for these efforts, particularly at this time, will help my office respond to this crisis and bring better results from the legislature.

I believe, as I wrote to the Governor, that AIDS is the critical priority in our state's public health concerns. My commitment will remain firm throughout the crisis and until all those suffering or at-risk have their right to life fully met.

Art Agnos
Assembly California Legislature

Meddling

★ George Mendenhall was bold enough in his article, "Gay Editor, Investigator Accused of Impropriety in Murder Case," to reveal the details of how two prominent Gays meddled in a legal situation that was to my mind none of their business.

The idea that people are Gay shouldn't automatically allow them to enjoy our complete sympathy. These two individuals, who happened to be Gay, are accused in a series of heinous crimes of which multiple murder and bank robbery head the bill. Every citizen under our judicial system should be entitled to the due consideration of the law whether they are Gay or straight, but it may also be pointed out that these young men aren't a credit to humanity in general or homosexuality in particular. They don't deserve any recognition for their acts, particularly from a prominent editor of the city's leading Gay newspaper and a Gay member of the District Attorney's staff.

Tom Youngblood
San Francisco

POLITICS AND POKER



Duke Skips Inaugural To Watch Super Bowl

WAYNE FRIDAY

Though a number of San Francisco Republicans are off to Washington this week to attend the inauguration of Ronald Reagan, our lone GOP elected office holder, State Senator Milton Marks, has no plans to join in. Marks is having no part of the GOP celebration and will stay here to cheer on the 49ers in the Super Bowl game. For that matter, Gov. George Deukmejian will also miss this swearing in of his fellow Californian this weekend. Like Marks, Deukmejian will concentrate on the Super Bowl—Duke and family will watch the game in a special box provided by the National Football League, and while the Governor has "no formal duties" at the game, he did say he would convey his best wishes before the game to his favorite team—"San Francisco's great 49ers."

Meanwhile, Washington, D.C. has worked itself into a frenzy over the activities marking the second swearing in of California's Ronald Reagan and vice president George Bush of Texas. Parties for the Reagan faithful start tonight (Thursday) and the drinking doesn't stop until the wee hours of next Tuesday when Republican celebrants make their way home from the Inaugural Balls, all of which Ron and Nancy promise to show at. In addition to the galas, concerts, dinners, cocktail parties, fireworks, bells, parades, etc., there will be even more receptions given by foreign embassies that will honor everyone from the diplomats, governors, congressmembers, to the party fatcats. The White House even announced this week that Nancy herself will be wearing frocks ranging from evening gowns by Bill Blass and Galanos to a smart swearing-in suit by Adolfo. The hotels in D.C. are packed—not a room to be found with one wealthy Texan, Caroline Hunt, even reserving 30 rooms for her family for an entire week at the Regent, Washington's newest posh hotel. Parties, parties, and more parties are the plan of the week for those who find reason to celebrate yet another four more years of Ronald Reagan. One catering service said this week that it was handling 75 parties this week, serving over 15,000 guests. Everyone is in on the show with everyone making a buck or two. Hairdressers are coming in from New York and California to keep the blue-haired Republican women beautiful, and "benefit" parties given by just about everyone for "donations" of



A Family Affair. Harry Britt's mom and dad were in town to see their son sworn in for second term on Board of Supervisors. (Photo: Rink)

\$1,000 are commonplace. Two inaugural "galas" happen this weekend—one called a "A Salute to the Vice President" (yes, Virginia, there is a George Bush) boasts such Hollywood biggies as Frank Sinatra, Tom Selleck, Diana Ross, Elizabeth Taylor, Mr. T., Robert Wagner, Jill St. John, Jerry Lee Lewis, and God only knows who else. Another, entitled the "50th American Presidential Inaugural Gala" will have all of the above-mentioned plus Bob Hope, Pearl Bailey, Zsa Zsa, Charlton Heston, and any other showbiz celebrity who doesn't happen to have a paid gig on that night. Even the Reagan Family is speaking to each other again and "all the kids" are coming and will be White House guests for the inaugural, promises Nancy's press secretary. The madness will end—hopefully—on Tuesday evening when the First Couple will personally appear and take a dance step or two on the dance floor of all nine (count 'em, nine) inaugural balls. For old Washington hands, the inaugural ball is an event, they say, to be suffered, what with the crush of faceless hordes, dance floors littered with spilled drinks and cigarette butts, and the glare of television lights that can wilt the most glamorous gown and per-

fectly applied face—even that worked on by two of Nancy Reagan's favorites, hairdresser Julian Bengtsson who is coming in from L.A. to follow the First Lady around all week; and famed makeup artist George

(Continued on next page)



A Gay Family Affair. Tim Wolfred was surrounded by his Gay family after he was sworn in for second term on college board. (Photo: Rink)

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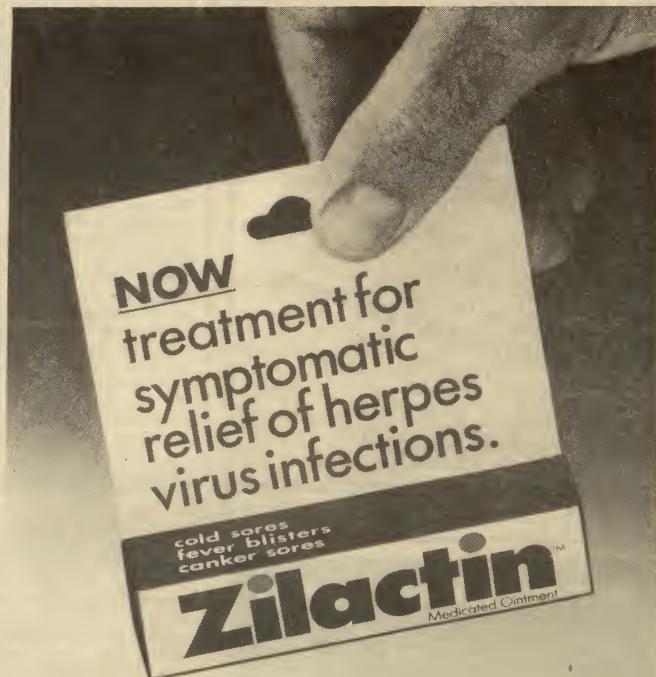
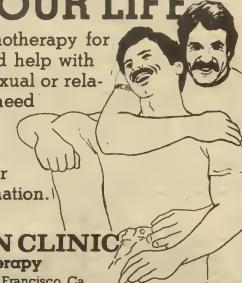
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would have thought the Governor was one of the same party as Willie Brown and David Roberti . . . pressing for a Gay Rights ordinance, members of the Gay community in Baltimore gave a 37-page report detailing discrimination against Gays to the City Council last week . . . California will observe Martin Luther King's birthday this coming Monday, Jan. 21, an official State holiday . . . Anne Kronenberg has moved back to the City and is staying with longtime friend Peter Nardoza . . . look for East Bay Congressman Ron Dellums to put his organizational support behind challenger Councilman Wilson Riles, Jr., in the upcoming Oakland mayoral race . . . State Senator Milton Marks sent the following telegram to the Rev. Bill Oliver, the campaign chair for the pro-Gay Citizens for a United Houston, where that Texas city is involved in an election Saturday that will try to annul the law there that protects Gays from discrimination in public employment: "My enthusiastic support comes to you and the citizens for United Houston in your struggle to preserve minority rights in your City. I have long been an advocate of civil and human rights. I am a registered Republican. I firmly believe in the philosophy that 'none are truly free until all are truly free.' The issue in Houston is one of national concern just as the issues in Selma, Alabama, were of national concern. I encourage the fine citizens of Houston to vote to preserve human rights on Jan. 19th."

W. Friday

Politics

(Continued from previous page)

Masters, who nearly made Dustin Hoffman look good in "Footsie." Ah, yes, the Republicans are back in Washington fully in charge for another four years and Ronald Reagan truly is the King.

★ ★ ★

Inaugural hype in Washington and Super Bowl hype in San Francisco—far too much hype at that; I thought I had heard every angle on hype until this morning when two Stanford professors sought to assure the 85,000 fans who will jam Stanford Stadium for the 49er-Miami clash that there is "little chance" of an earthquake during the game. James Gere and Haresh Shan, two civil engineering professors announced that the chance of a major quake (7.6 or larger on the Richter scale) are 1 in 10,000 . . . chances of a smaller quake (3 or 4 on the scale) are a bit higher: 20 in 10,000 . . . the Bay Area Reporter learned this week that Bernhard Goetz, the so-called "subway vigilante" who shot four youths in a New York subway recently has a number of friends in the Castro (how did you miss this one, Herb?) . . . Geraldine who? Fewer than half the 600 California eighth graders who took a state assessment test correctly identified Geraldine Ferraro as the only female vice presidential nominee of a major party, the director of the California Assessment Program announced last week . . . so Senator Alan Cranston, campaigning hard for another term in the 1986 election has "advised" probable Democratic primary opponent Dianne Feinstein that she "should look for a more promising alternative." This kind of "advice" might very well have an adverse effect on the mayor, who is being urged by many to enter the race against the aging Cranston, Clint Reilly, Feinstein's trusted political manager, told the Bay Area Reporter this week that the Cranston race is one that "Dianne is really looking at" and this writer was convinced that Reilly thinks the mayor is going to take the plunge. Reilly said that Dianne is also "looking at her options," which included a race for governor, but Reilly says Cranston "has some real problems" and there is some fear among statewide Democrats that Cranston could take the Democrats down the road to defeat much like the "Jerry Brown factor" where Brown dominated the primary race but was easily whipped by Republican Pete Wilson in the general election. From this vantage

point, I think Dianne Feinstein could possibly best Cranston in a primary and give any Republican a run for his or her money . . . Among the parties planned for Super Bowl week and the one that checkbook Democrats in the city are hoping to get invited to (and few will) is the one Senator Ted Kennedy is giving Saturday night at L'Etoile . . . L.A. City Councilman John Ferraro announced this week he is running against Mayor Tom Bradley and Ferraro has the able Ron Smith, who managed Supervisor Jack Molinari's campaign here as well as other successful campaigns around the state, running his mayor effort; Smith is considered by many as being one of the best political strategists in the business . . . nationally syndicated political columnist David Broder addresses tomorrow's Commonwealth Club luncheon; his subject: "Reagan: The Next Four Years" (info and reservations 362-4903) . . . the way Democrats praised Deukmejian's proposed budget last week one

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Donna Summer: Off the Radio

**K-101 Shelves Disco Discs
After Complaints of Gay Listeners**

by Allen White

K-101, one of the top contemporary music stations in Northern California, has announced that the music of Donna Summer will no longer be played on their station. The decision was made by Jeff Sattler, Program Director of the station, following complaints against the artist.

Sattler said, "The station is aware of its need to be sensitive to the community." The station had received several complaints, according to Sattler, because of the reputation Summer has developed for linking AIDS as "a sin of homosexuals."

Sattler said the decision to no longer play Summer's music had been made easier by the fact that her recordings no longer are as popular as they once were. A possible reason for this is the reluctance of many Gays to purchase or play her music.

One of the people who complained to K-101 radio was John Hall. Hall's first lover died of AIDS last September, as had a friend last month.

Hall met his friend Rodney when he was 22. Though the re-

lationship was never too close, they remained good friends. Each Christmas he and Rodney would spend the holiday together. Hall, now 29, was looking forward to spending Christmas with his friend.

Last Dec. 1 he called Rodney to wish him a Happy Birthday, which was the following day. There was no answer. On Dec. 4 he received a call to say that Rodney had died of AIDS the day before his birthday.

Hall then became aware of the remarks of Donna Summer. "I had danced to her music since I was 19," he said. "Now she was saying that my friends were dead because of a sin." He was hurt and repulsed. He was angered when he then heard the music of Donna Summer being played on the radio. He wrote K-101 saying he would no longer be listening to the station.

Four days later Jeff Sattler, the Program Director, responded with a brief note. It said, "We have stopped playing her music . . . Please turn us on again." John did.

AIDS Action Group To Picket the Feds

'Mobilization' Demands Release Of Money to Screen Blood Supply

by George Mendenhall

"We are committed to get this accounting by doing whatever it takes to get it," said Paul Boneberg, staff administrator of the new AIDS action group, Mobilization. Boneberg said, "There is criminal negligence by federal agencies that are holding AIDS money already appropriated by Congress." He named the Health and Human Resources (HHR) department under Margaret Heckler and the Office of Management and Budget under David Stockman.

Mobilization, which numbers 40 active participants here and has plans to go national, will hold its first town hall next week. Reports will be given from state and federal legislators as to how they are responding to "friendly demands" made by

Mobilization. John Lorenzini, People with AIDS, will report on future Mobilization actions. The public forum will be Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m., the Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market Street.

DEATHS

Gilbert Lemlin

Gilbert Lemlin passed away peacefully in his sleep Thursday Jan. 10 from pneumocystis pneumonia. He had been hospitalized for only three weeks after becoming ill in late December of 1984. He would have been 40 in April.

Gil met his lover John Abney on Jan. 6, 1979 while on vacation from Montana. He moved to San Francisco in February of 1979. Gil worked briefly for the San Francisco District Attorney's office and was a San Francisco Policeman for 9 months. He became a San Francisco Deputy Sheriff in April of 1981, where he worked until his death.

Gil enjoyed the opera and concerts, and was active in San Francisco politics, working the election efforts of both Sheriff Mike Hennessey and Supervisor Dick Hongisto. Gil was active in the effort to recruit Gays into law enforcement and worked hard to make sure that all his co-workers were treated fairly. He was a candidate for Presi-



dent of the Deputy Sheriff's Association when he became ill. Gil was well known around the South of Market campus and participated in many community events there.

Gil is survived by his mother, brother and two sisters in Montana, his devoted friends Louise Swig and Herb Donaldson, and his lover John and their cat, Seiko.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, Jan. 16 at the Church of the Advent in San Francisco, and his remains were taken to Montana for burial in the family plot.

Valentino De La Guardia

Valentino De La Guardia, 38, passed away peacefully Dec. 26, at Franklin Hospital after a year's hard-fought battle with AIDS. Valentino was born in Bayamo, Cuba, on Oct. 8, 1946. After graduating from high school in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Valentino received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Spanish at Montclair State College in New Jersey, and later, his master's degree in English from the University of Hawaii.

Valentino came to San Francisco in 1976, attended the University of San Francisco, and worked tirelessly in the real estate field as an enterprising broker and loan specialist until his health failed.

Fortunately, during this difficult time, Valentino's mother, Dora, lived with him, nurtured him, and remained his constant companion. Her great strength, gentle manner, and deep love enabled him to remain at home until the final days of his illness.

Special thanks goes to St. Philip's Church for cooking and delivering nutritious meals daily; to Dr. L. Bruce Mills for his time and care; and to Manuel Chen from Shanti for his friendship and counseling.

Valentino will be remembered



among his family and friends for his strength, independence, warmth, ever-positive attitude, deep Christian faith, and great appreciation for beauty and nature. Valentino will remain forever a smile inside our hearts.

He is survived by his mother, Dora De La Guardia; his sister, Marta Garcia; his niece and nephew, Nan and Dorey Garcia; and numerous loving relatives and "Amigos."

A lovely memorial service was held at St. Philip's Church Dec. 29. That same day Valentino was laid to rest at Mt. Tamalpais Cemetery in San Rafael, California.

Donations in Valentino's name may be made to the Shanti Project, 890 Hayes St.

Sam Cole Sebree, Jr.

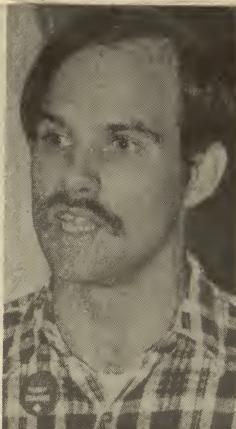
Sam Cole Sebree, Jr., died in New York City Dec. 28 of pneumocystis pneumonia complications. He was diagnosed after being hospitalized for three weeks. He was 39. A successful advertising executive, he relocated to New York City two and one-half years ago after living in San Francisco since college. He graduated from UC-Berkeley with a master's of business administration degree. He leaves his father and three sisters, and their families.

A memorial service will be held in San Francisco at Grace Cathedral on Saturday, Feb. 16. Friends may contact Tom Doss at 567-8484 for details.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to his memory may be made to Cornell Uni-



versity Medical College, c/o Dr. Richard B. Roberts, Infectious Disease Division, 1300 York Ave., New York, NY 10021.



Paul Boneberg (Photo: Rink)

The group is calling for a congressional investigation of why AIDS funds totalling over \$10 million are being held up by Heckler and Stockman. It is calling for government-sponsored town halls to discuss AIDS funding, research and civil rights. And it is denouncing the use of AIDS by religious and political officials to deny the civil rights of Gay people.

Mobilization will picket at the old federal building in United Nations Plaza, noon to 2 p.m., this Friday (Jan. 18) to demand that Heckler urge the release of AIDS funds by Stockman.

Boneberg, an unpaid full-time administrator, is attempting to establish a national Mobilization organization. Morris Kight, Los Angeles Gay activist, has held some organizational meetings. Similar efforts are underway in Chicago, New York, and Detroit.

Mobilization officials include press spokesman John Wahl, Rev. Jim Sandmire, political consultant Jeff Jones, sexologist Maggi Rubenstein, labor activist Howard Wallace, health advocate Hank Wilson, People with AIDS official Dan Turner, political activist Ben Gardiner, and Lorenzini.

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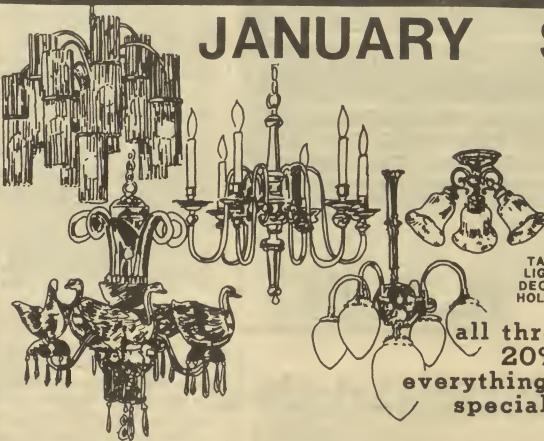
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Bolivia Rocks the Castro following the 49ers victory in the 1982 Super Bowl. Fans are set to frolic again—if the Dolphins don't splash their hopes. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

All Eyes on the End Zone As We Psych for the Big Bowl

*Can't Tell the Play Plans Without a Program—
Here It Is for Super Sunday Celebrations*

by Allen White

Game time is 3 p.m. Sunday for the Super Bowl between the San Francisco 49ers and the Miami Dolphins. It would seem every bar in the city has something special planned as the Gay community has gone almost off the deep end preparing to celebrate the day.

Last Saturday, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus recorded the official "49ers Fight Song." 50,000 copies are being quickly pressed and will be available today in record stores across the city. Saturday they will be on sale at a booth at 18th and Castro. The chorus gets a royalty of each sale.

Most of the festivities will be starting about 1:30. In the Tenderloin, Char, who two years ago made *Time Magazine* as a 49er cheerleader in drag, will hold forth. There will be a drawing for 49er prizes throughout the afternoon and special drink giveaways after each 49er score. The bar was planning to bring in the actual tailgate of a truck but discarded the idea when it was learned that some would try and turn it into a bed.

In the Folsom area, the Covered Wagon starts serving chili and hot dogs free at 2 with free drinks following every 49er touchdown. They will also offer all the draft beer you can drink for \$3.

Over on Market Street, the Mint tailgate party will feature 49c hot dogs and they are installing three giant screen tv sets.

The Rawhide has 49c hot dogs, 49c beer and will give you \$100 if you guess the correct score. They will also be giving free t-shirts.

Chaps is installing several tv sets and will have a buffet and champagne with drink specials. They claim to be the only bar in town with bleacher seats for the game.

The San Francisco Eagle, which was jammed for the NFC playoffs, is reportedly installing at least seven tv sets for the day and is also planning special events. At the Eagle, the plays off the screen could be as exciting as what takes place on the playing field.

Festus in the Castro is hosting a Coits social club function. The theme is "Red, Red, Red." There will be free hot dogs sim-

mered in beer. Festus owner Bob Shore said there will be at least four 49er cheerleaders: Empress Remy, Marlene III of Modesto, Connie Cadiver and one Nurse Nina.

Across the street the action at the Pendulum will be chaos. Reportedly this is the bar where you can find the real 49er players. Their fans know each other on a first name basis and the energy level will be electric. Over at the Midnight Sun, they don't show commercials and the key is to get there early if you want to get in. They have one of the best video set-ups in town and they do a superb technical job of presenting the game. Across the street at the Village on 18th Street, the place will again be mobbed.

49er fever will also be evident at the Bear which is right across from the Castro Theatre. They will have balloons, noise makers, a buffet and they drop the drink price 10¢ every time the 49ers score. On Saturday at 3 p.m. the Bear will prime its crowd with highlights of the '81-'82 playoffs and Super Bowl.

Over at the New Bell on Polk Street, the bar has permanently installed a giant tv with fully wired sound system. During the NFC playoff it had the largest crowd. The owners are planning special activities all afternoon for their anticipated capacity crowd.

Following the game, Sylvester and Jeanie Tracy perform at 10 p.m. at Trocadero Transfer. The admission is only \$5 and the place, which will be packed, opens its doors at 7 p.m. John Kass' Male Erotica show, which was yanked off Cable TV channel 6 will be presented each night through the weekend at Savages. The show they present is far, far more than what you will ever see on cable television.

★ ★ ★

The Community United Against Violence has cautioned

people across the city to be careful in their actions. If the 49ers win there will be bedlam in the city. In 1982, when the 49ers won, Castro and 18th Street closed. Because of swift action on the part of the Gay community, it was the only area in the city where there was no violence. Police have targeted the Castro area as a potential problem area should the 49ers win. Leaders in the Gay community are encouraging people to have a good time, yet to act with an eye towards their own and others safety.

Dignity Anniversary

Dignity/San Francisco, the organization for lesbian and gay Catholics, will celebrate its twelfth anniversary with the Jan. 27 installation of AIDS ministers and an awards banquet on Saturday, Feb. 2, honoring individuals and organizations that have contributed to the Gay and Lesbian community.

Twelve AIDS lay ministers will be installed at the Jan. 27 ceremony, beginning 5:30 p.m. at St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Ave.

Civil rights attorney Mary Dunlap will be the keynote speaker at Dignity's Pax et Bonum awards banquet at the Showplace on Feb. 2. Dunlap has specialized in legal issues involving the rights of women, Gays, Lesbians, people of color, and the physically challenged. This year's award recipients are the Community United Against Violence, for its work in the Gay and Lesbian community; Father Robert Pfisterer, pastor of St. Boniface; for his work in the Catholic Church; and two Dignity members—Paul Rioski and Tom McLoughlin—for their work in building the chapter.

Information on dinner reservations can be obtained by calling 584-1714.

Attacks on S.F., Chief Murphy Mark Houston's Gay Referendum

**Balloting is set for Saturday in Recall Election
For Ordinance Protecting Gays in City Jobs**

by Will Snyder

They're calling Con Murphy a homo. That's the latest word from Houston, scene of a Gay rights referendum this coming weekend. San Francisco has been oft attacked by anti-Gay forces in Texas' largest city. The latest broadside is an allegation by fundamentalist Christians that San Francisco Police Chief Con Murphy is a "professing homosexual."

A document distributed at an anti-Gay rally said that a 1980 CBS News documentary, "Gay Power, Gay Politics," reports "that the San Francisco police chief is a professing homosexual appointed by the mayor at the demand of the homosexuals."

The report induced nauseous responses from important San Francisco circles.

Jim Hennessey, a spokesman for Police Chief Murphy, leaned back in his chair and said, "The Chief doesn't want to give any importance to such a statement as that."

Mayor Feinstein's press secretary, Bill Strawn, echoed Hennessey's remark. Ditto for Dana Van Gorder, a member of Supervisor Harry Britt's office.

The disdain San Francisco city officials are showing for the lower realms of Houston politics is being returned in equal doses by conservative Houstonians toward San Francisco, Houston Gays and even CBS News.

Last week, CBS News' legal offices challenged the right of Houston anti-Gay groups to show "Gay Power, Gay Politics," its controversial 1980 documentary. According to a Jan. 9 report in the Houston Post, the Campaign For Houston, one of the conservative groups in that city, agreed "in a show of good faith" not to show the film.

"To the best of my knowledge, they have not been showing the film," CBS News attorney Patrick Guy told The Bay Area Reporter.

However, a Houston Gay community source and an anonymous spot check by The Bay Area Reporter has revealed the film is still being shown in conservative religious circles either publicly or on a clandestine basis.

Sue Lovell, a member of Houston's Gay Political Caucus, said, "My landlady came over to see me and tell me that her church showed the film Sunday night."

When The Bay Area Reporter contacted the woman's church, Baptist Temple, a receptionist for the church said that the church did show the film this past Sunday night, but she wasn't sure if it would be shown again.

A spokesperson for the Campaign For Houston, Robert Dees, said that his group was not showing the CBS News documentary any more. But Dees freely added that there are a lot of copies of the tape floating around.

"If you call around, I'm sure you'll be able to see it," Dees said.

According to sources The Bay Area Reporter contacted, the outlook for Gays isn't too bright. Lovell, for example, hopes that there is a small voter turnout for the referendum which covers only the question of job discrimination.

"If there's a large turnout,"



Chief Con Murphy (Photo: Rink)

Lovell said, "we're in deep trouble."

Houston radio station KTRH plans a Friday release of a 750-person telephone poll it has conducted with Rice University. Although a station spokesman didn't have any data available, he did indicate that "things don't seem to look too good for the Gay forces in Houston."

The reasoning behind both statements puts heavy emphasis on Houston's large Baptist population. If that voting bloc, normally conservative, turns out in high numbers, the smaller Gay voting bloc will probably be in trouble.

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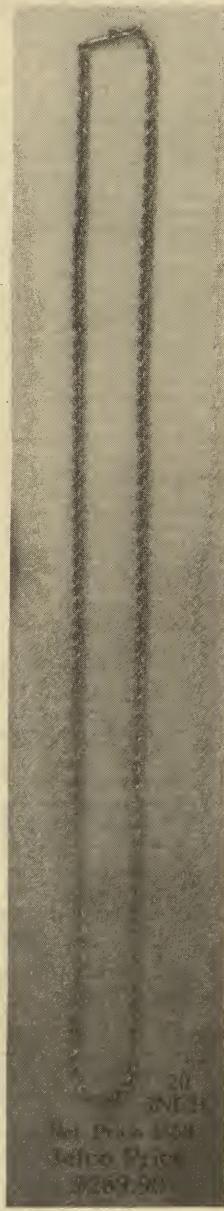
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ON THE JOB: GAY PEOPLE AT WORK

A Peachy Expo In Atlanta

ARTHUR LAZERE, C.P.A.

Theads for Illusions Cabaret in Atlanta bill it as "the showplace of the South," an innocent bit of hyperbole. One recent Wednesday evening, a nearly full house cheered on a succession of female impersonators who lip-synched recordings matching their transvestite fantasies.

As each singer worked the stage, a parade of customers came forward with money in hand and pressed the ones or fives or tens upon the favored performer. The scene was the culmination of a fund raising campaign by Atlanta's Royal Court for a hospice for people with AIDS. There was a warm feeling of community in the room and the giving was generous. The tally came to more than \$28,000.

Undisputed as the star of the evening was the proprietor of Illusions, Ted Binkley, who came out of drag retirement because of his commitment to the cause. Begowned and befeathered, Binkley earned a standing ovation for his rendition of a Garland favorite.

Out of drag, Ted Binkley is a member of the executive committee of the National Association of Business Councils, the Lesbian and Gay business and professional organization. He is past president of the Atlanta Business and Professional Guild, an NABC affiliate.

In addition to producing the AIDS benefit, Binkley was instrumental in bringing the semi-annual meeting of the NABC to Atlanta the same week. To top the week off, the Guild produced its second annual Business Expo, heralded in advance by mention in a *Newsweek* story on the Gay market.

Business Expo '84, a showcase for businesses serving the Gay community, was staged at Atlanta's Civic Center. Some 40 exhibitors displayed their wares to nearly 600 potential

customers.

Exhibitor Jacque (Jackie) Browne crammed her three businesses into one booth at Expo, testing the viewers' tolerance for kitsch, but unflagging in her enthusiasm. She sells "young antiques and old junk," operates a pawn shop that specializes in china, crystal, and porcelain, and rents antiques to theatrical companies and commercial photographers. In business for 12 years in Atlanta's Virginia-Highlands section, Browne has watched her neighborhood emerge as one of several in Atlanta with a significant Gay and Lesbian presence. For her, Expo provided a chance to market outside of her own area to a Gay market she perceives as "tremendous."

Bearded Richard Pereira is a walking advertisement for his business. With the temperature in Atlanta below freezing, he sported a deep brown suntan. Pereira is the Georgia distributor for Eurotan, which runs tanning salons and sells tanning beds. His participation with the Guild follows the experience of the Eurotan distributor in Houston, who has demonstrated to Pereira, that cooperation and support for the Gay community resulted in successful marketing.

Susan Martin, 30, the current president of the Guild, quietly radiates a Peter Pan sort of charm. An award winning advertising professional, her current pet project is producing the first cable video news show in Atlanta focused on the Lesbian and Gay community.

She likes the idea of Gay-generated news reaching even those Gays who don't patronize bars. The educational value of such information reaching the non-Gay audience appeals to Susan, too. Atlanta, inexplicably, is the only major American city today without a Gay newspaper.

As the room hummed with sounds of networking, NABC's executive committee held a news conference in the lobby. For the gathered television cameras, president Werner Kuhn expressed the concern of the organization's more than 3,000 members over increasing incidents of civil rights infringement.

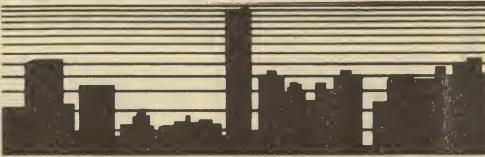
The closure of San Francisco's bathhouses, opposition in Palm Springs to a proposed residence for people with AIDS, and widespread harassment of Gay businesses by fire and health departments in many localities were cited as examples of irrational AIDS hysteria on the part of public officials.

"While we understand the concern about AIDS among the general population," Martin added, "limiting the constitutional rights of one segment of society is not the answer." NABC emphasized education

front at work says being Gay is not an issue there.

Another exhibitor, a soft-spoken Lesbian mother of two, was not as confident and requested that her name—and her company's—not be used. A local distributor for a national manufacturer of bookkeeping systems, she did not tell her company that she was exhibiting. As a result she was "feeling a little uncomfortable" at Expo because she was worried the company would learn that she was there.

Closed at the company, she nevertheless has many clients in the Lesbian and Gay community. She said, "I have not gotten a chance to feel the company out yet. The sense I've gotten so far is of a very straight company, very heterosexual, very gossipy. I think that as long as I keep producing, they really won't care what I do privately . . .



ATLANTA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL GUILD

and prevention as positive responses to the epidemic.

Back in the main room, Paul Plate, natty in a three piece, gray, pin-striped suit, was busy discussing with potential clients the virtues of tax shelters and mutual funds. Plate is a registered representative for the Atlanta regional office of First Investors Corporation, a Wall Street firm.

Plate thinks that many young Gays, outside of traditional family structures, have not yet learned to be investment-oriented. He urges thinking ahead and planning for retirement, offering programs which allow small monthly investments to accumulate over time.

Plate brought with him two other salespeople, neither of them Gay. He told me the company knew they would be exhibiting at a Gay event and that it was not a problem. He is up-

When I am with my associates, there is something I can't quite share with them, but I have to listen to all *their* stories . . .

A travel agent who was exhibiting, and is a member of the Guild, also preferred to remain anonymous for the press. Asserting that he promotes to and supports the Gay community, he added somewhat defensively, "There's no reason for me to make a public statement about my sexual preference." He pointed out that he has among his clients Baptist organizations, business he fears he would lose if he were upfront.

Another travel agency, Different Directions Travel, was represented by manager Paul Wandrisco. Located in fashionable Buckhead, a neighborhood that includes many Gays, Wandrisco estimates that the agency's business is 10 to 15 percent Gay. He said that Different Di-

rections is the only upfront agency in the area. Has it helped? "It hasn't hurt," he answered, "in terms of Gay or straight business."

Dianne Stephenson owns Home Builders, contractors specializing in remodeling older homes in the inner city. She employs men and women, Gays and non-Gays. An activist herself, Stephenson said, "The Gay community has been instrumental in much of the renovation in the in-town areas of Atlanta going back to the early '60s. We're very proud that our community has done this. The participation of Gay people in the economic, political, and social life of the community makes for viable neighborhoods. The Gay community has been responsible for creating interesting neighborhoods."

The ads for Automotive Systems Research, located on North Decatur Road, are headlined, "You shouldn't feel like a foreigner when you take your foreign car in for maintenance." John Bailey, Gay owner of this 13-year-old business, said, "We feel that there is a big difference in the way Gay people are treated in a straight repair facility. They're often looked down on . . . We stress in our operation that each and every customer is equally important to us. We don't discriminate on any basis."

Helen Ruth, 72, is from Roswell, an Atlanta suburb. She came to Expo with her Gay son, Ron. She also has two non-Gay sons. "I'm interested in anything that has to do with the Gay community," she said. Mrs. Ruth is a member of both Dignity and Lutherans Concerned. She had just returned from the national convention of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. "My car needs some work," she said, "I wanted to go to a dealer up in Roswell, but Ron said, 'I found a dealer on North Decatur and you might want to go down there because they're Gay owned.' Of course, I like that. I want to help all I can." She paused a moment and added, "I said to Ron, sometimes I'm glad you're Gay because I never really enjoyed myself as much as I do with Gay people."

Housing Needed for People With AIDS

Many people with AIDS are finding themselves homeless as apartment rental rates and moving costs continue to rise. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is facilitating listings of low-rent housing for people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions. Referrals are needed for both shared situations and individual apartments. The need for permanent housing is increasing as AIDS diagnoses continue to rise.

The average income of a person with AIDS or AIDS-related conditions, once they are unable to continue working, ranges from \$272 to \$504 per month. Due to these financial constraints, the AIDS Foundation is specifically seeking listings for housing that is available for \$250 per month or less.

Anyone who has questions about sharing their home or who would consider providing low-cost apartment rentals in San Francisco, please call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation at 864-4376.

'My Husband Loves the Nob Hill Cinema.'

HOW TO SURVIVE THE AIDS CRISIS.

Are you confused or concerned about what it's going to take for you to successfully get yourself through the AIDS epidemic? The **AIDS Health Project** is presenting a one-day workshop for men in San Francisco. A chance to meet other men, look at your own behavior and consider how to make your life work better for you.

When: Saturday, January 26, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Where: Pride Foundation, 890 Hayes Street (at Fillmore).

Cost: \$10.00 (scholarships are available).

Pre-registration is recommended. Space will be limited. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages will be provided.



More Information: Tim Sally, AIDS Health Project, 626-6637.

Pre-Registration: Mail to WORKSHOP, AIDS Health Project, 54 10th Street, San Francisco CA 94103.

Name _____

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Phone Day _____ Eve _____

Fee (check one) \$10 Scholarship

Make checks payable to "Regents-University of California", and under "Memo" note: UCSF AIDS Health Project. Pre-registration must be received by January 23, 1984.

GREATER BAY NEWS

OAKLAND

Baby, the Reign Must Fall

NEZ PAS

CHA CHA REVISITED!

Cha Cha (Randy) ran twice for Empress of ACIE; once for the inaugural role, and most recently for title V—which she won.

This multi-title holder first viewed the Alameda County Imperial Empire as a nice, social part of the Gay community that would allow many segments and facets of East Bay Gays to mix. Cha Cha fully realized the cliques associated with Gay bars and deemed the Empire to be a better social outlet and a total community involvement. In the beginning it was thus; but, alas, the pendulum doth have to swing.

In her first year of reign she soon learned a basic lesson: a lot of privacy is not allowed when one chooses the "Imperial Life." Also gleaned from her reign was the realization that an Empire needs its own financing to exist; i.e., general overhead, insurance, decorations, rentals, etc. All those little dollars add up quickly. She also ferreted out who really cared; who her friends truly were; who the workers were (38 people of her court "walked" in Modesto's coronation and Cha Cha never saw 38 people at any of the ACIE Council meetings).

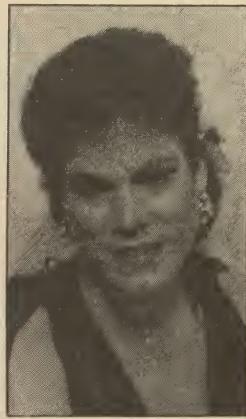
Major disillusionments of the reign included: lack of limits on time; misuse of trust; a total responsibility on the Crowned heads when, in fact, they are representatives, not the sole workers; beginnings go well but gradually the helpers dwindle to a precious four or five; the community can't support every function (especially when dates conflict); a personal approach—request doesn't bring results; many in the East Bay work better individually than in groups; a normal, personal life rarely coincides with the glamorous "Imperial" life; it's extremely costly to maintain the stature of royalty conceived by the community; the Cinderella dream can turn into a nightmare of broken glass slippers, with the sink or swim syndrome concluding in "I want it to be over!"; no Emperor or Empress can ever please everyone or every group, especially when promised assistance and aid never materialized; that when pushes came to shove, only Cha Cha's mother was remaining as one to be counted on in time of need.

Nez: Why did you want a second interview?

Cha Cha: Because I want people to know my feelings first-hand and without gossip. I want them to hear it from me so there is no confusion. I want to set the record straight.

Nez: What about expenses?

Cha Cha: I want everyone to know that every single dollar spent during my year of reign was out of my own pocket. Emperor Don and I decided not to go penny-ante, nickel and dime-ling for every little thing. We decided to pay for every-



Empress Cha Cha

thing ourselves until it came to the one big trip—the Alaska Coronation. All the others we have gone to—Boise, Portland, Vancouver, Eugene, Pomona, Los Angeles, Modesto, Fresno, Santa Rosa, Sacramento—I paid for my own transportation, lodging, meals and admissions. I would guesstimate that the year totaled roughly \$25,000 (this includes all drag and accessories). Don and I originally anticipated that our request of funds for Alaska would be \$680 apiece. Because I was able to get reduced fares, it went down to \$340 each. I do know that at the end of our reign the ACIE was in the black—not much, mind you, but there were not outstanding bills to my knowledge. I'm not complaining about the amount I spent. It's a fact that it is expensive and future Emperors and Empresses should know this.

Nez: What about your intention to move up north? What about Larry?

Cha Cha: When Larry and I met, it was a little difficult at first because of my involvement with drag. We both knew it had to be, however, when the time came for me to run for Empress V. During the campaign and after the Coronation, our private life was almost nil. We became partners, as it were, working for and with Cha Cha, Empress V. I wanted that dream of being Empress and he gave up a lot so I could realize that dream—sometimes a nightmare! I honestly felt that he being chairman of the Privy Council would fill his needs and also cement our own personal relationship. But it was work, work, and more work. Our intimate, private times became less and less, and the business of the Empire became more and more. I guess we fell out of love and into friendship. It sounds strange, but we knew each other too well to remain lovers. The exterior problems that people said existed only made us work harder together as partners. He gave up a lot so I could travel and because of the time away from each other, we had to have an open relationship. "I think we

were good for each other, but mainly as co-workers, not co-lovers. We knew being friends was more important. My new friend Kevin Emperor of I-F, had nothing to do with our breaking up. Larry has a new lover and they're both living in my house so we can all take advantage of the financial savings. It's all very basic. People will either understand it or they won't.

Nez: In retrospect, what about this last year and your reign?

Cha Cha: ACIE is a business, basically, with the Emperor and Empress as managers. Don and I were hit hard during our year, but we didn't let the "business" fold. We left it in the black, barely, but in the black. It's difficult that every year a new group of people have to work with and use the Constitution. Some say it can't be done, but we tried. With the dowager Emperor and Empress, and now elected Grand Duke and Duchess, the turnover and carry-through may be a little easier. My support doesn't always have to be physical at every Council meeting. I can support over the phone or by being at functions. For ACIE to succeed totally, the community must accept it more earnestly and the Court must give back to the community what it expects and deserves. I admit that I did travel a lot, but when people at home won't work with you, why stay home? I made many friends through traveling and gained a respect for Don and me. I did perfect my drag when dollars were scarce, and carried it off with dignity. The grandeur that I feel can't be denied; it's a good feeling, and I know that all the criticism wasn't constructive. As time went on, nothing surprised me; it still doesn't! Our slogan "If you have a bitch, bring it" didn't succeed. Most of the "bitches" were still born in the bars.

Nez: Any advice to future monarchs?

Cha Cha: Keep an open mind; try not to hate people for their different ideas; don't take criticism too personally; be the best you can be; don't lose your self-identity; grow and learn gracefully.

Nez: Final comments?

I've come to realize that material things don't mean as much as I thought they did. I used to depend on them when I feared my own minority. That fear made me fight hard to be where I am, and now the city life tends to stifle me. I'm stubborn, I may be weak to some and strong-willed to others, but that's my identity. That can't be taken away from me. Just because I'm not fighting doesn't mean I've given up. I would never give anyone the satisfaction that I didn't finish. I'm bitter that too few realize that everyone has feelings. I wish people would think before they criticize. What I wanted from a relationship wasn't meant to be with Larry. It's the fault of neither of us, and there is no reflection on how we feel about each other now.

I haven't gone crazy—yet—and yes, there are regrets. But I did the best I could. Can anyone ask for more? I hope I have been honest and that the honesty isn't questioned anymore. ■ Nez

Hustler Gets 15 to Life In Murder of E. Bay Man

Prosecutors Go For, Win, 2nd Degree Murder Conviction; No 'Special Circumstances'

by Charles Linebarger

An Oakland hustler has been convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 15 years to life in the strangulation death of an East Bay man.

English-American opera buff Edward McGaffney, 50, was found dead in his apartment, with a telephone cord wound around his neck. His body was discovered by a friend, J. C. Lambert.

McGaffney had last been seen leaving the Coral Reef bar in Oakland in the company of a hustler, Shelby Simpson. The accused murderer, Simpson, also from the East Bay, confessed to burglary when he was apprehended in Los Angeles in the murdered man's car a week after the killing.

At the time of his confession, according to Darryl Billups, an Assistant District Attorney in Oakland, Simpson stated that he had been picked up by McGaffney in order to perform an act of prostitution. According to Simpson, when McGaffney failed to pay him the money they had agreed upon he choked him until the older man became unconscious. Simpson then began to search the apartment for valuables, Billups said. But McGaffney came to, and Simpson gagged him, then tied him with a telephone cord. According to Billups, McGaffney had a gag reaction and choked to death.

Simpson was charged by the Oakland District Attorney's office with second-degree murder and burglary. The District Attorney's office chose not to seek murder with special circumstances, which would have carried the death penalty or life without possibility of parole. Burglary is listed among the life-threatening felonies which trigger murder with special circumstances, when death results from the underlying felony.

Simpson was sentenced Jan. 10 to 2 years for the auto theft and 15 years to life for the murder of McGaffney.

Edward McGaffney's long-time friend, J. C. Lambert,

talked about the sentencing. "I wasn't really happy with it," Lambert said. "He murdered my friend. I'm not sure that was justice, but that seemed to be what was available, and it was better than nothing at all."

Lambert said that Edward McGaffney will be remembered by his friends. He also said that he hoped people would use more common sense in dealing with pick-ups, particularly hustlers. "Situations aren't always good, and you should be a little watchful so you don't set yourself up to get into trouble."

When the B.A.R. initially contacted Simpson's attorney, Charles Bonner, last November, Bonner had contended that the murder had been unintentional (involuntary). After last Thursday's sentencing, Simpson, at least, is not going to walk away on involuntary manslaughter. ■

San Jose Chorus Auditions

Liedermann, the Gay Men's Chorus of San Jose, is beginning its spring season and is holding auditions for new members.

Auditions can be scheduled after regular chorus rehearsals. They are held at 7:30 p.m. Mondays in the San Jose State University Campus Christian Center at the corner of 10th and San Carlos streets in San Jose. Anyone interested in auditioning or for more information about Liedermann should call Jim Clark at (408) 358-3032, or Larry Marcus at (408) 280-6297. ■

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—Bea Pixa, S.F. Examiner

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THIS

FRIDAY 18

- **Dealing With Anger:** lecture, Fraternal Order of Gays, 2038 22nd Ave., S.F., 8 PM. Learn how to express anger in non-damaging ways and reduce stress. Call 753-6786 for information.
- **Co-operative Adoption:** film and lecture, Mt. Zion Hospital (Herbst Hall), Post and Divisadero Streets, S.F., 7:30 PM, \$7. Sharon Kaplan, director of Parenting Resources, explains all about adoption.
- **Two Prima Donnas In Need of Attention:** cabaret, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8. Stephanie Rhoads-Bickham and Melissa Ann Kisling perform. Reservations at 776-2100.
- **Tricameron:** stage performance, Gumption Theatre, 1563 Page St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. A two-act battle of split personality and moral confrontation. For reservations, call 653-4733.
- **Anna — The Journey of a Swedish Emigrant:** stage performance, San Francisco Repertory Theatre, 4147 19th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$8. Information at 864-3305. A one-woman show by Viveca Lindfors.
- **Lynda Bergren:** cabaret, Buckley's 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM.
- **Acupuncture Free Clinic:** for persons with AIDS and their Gay families, The Parsonage, 555A Castro St., S.F., by appointment. Call Mark Denzin, C.A., or Peter Betcher at 567-2315 for information.
- **Romanovsky & Phillips:** music and comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. A favorite with Valencia Rose audiences, Ron and Paul will do selections from their new album.
- **Gas:** stage performance, Co-Lab Theatre, 1805 Divisadero at Bush, S.F., 8 PM, \$6.50. Paul Coolbrith directs this production of Georg Kaiser's Expressionist play.
- **A Name You Never Got:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$6.50. Ronda Slater's one-woman show continues.
- **Femprov:** comedy, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 6 to 8 PM, free.
- **Pictures at an Exhibition:** stage performance, Zephyr Theater, 595 Mission St., S.F., 8:30 PM, cover. Directed by Peter Luce. With Marian Scott, Marianne Simon, Stephen Logue, and Martin Ponch. Call 557-5139 or 753-0492 for more information.
- **Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris:** stage performance, Belrose Theatre, 1415 5th Ave., San Rafael, 8:30 PM, \$10. Starring Ruth Hastings. Call 864-6669 for reservations.
- **The Concubine at the Feast:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$9 and \$10. Rhino's second production of the season, by Paul August Cacciotti, directed by Kris Gannon.



See X-Posed, a show fresh out of Philadelphia featuring the

SUNDAY 20

- **How to Add Years to Your Life:** lecture, G 40+, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin, at Geary, S.F., 2 PM. Geriatric social worker George Woyames shares some stress reducing techniques.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Sunset Boulevard run, 1 to 5 miles, begins 10 AM in the parking lot at the intersection of Lake Merced Blvd. and Sunset Blvd.
- **Different Spokes:** Tiburon Loop ride, starts at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park (Fell & Stanyan) at 10 AM, rain or shine. Moderate hills, moderate pace with occasional stops, 45 miles. For information, call 461-9167 for details.
- **Eastbay FrontRunners:** San Francisco run, combined clubs. Call 526-2513 or 753-1354 for information.
- **Methodist Affirmation:** meeting, 110 Liberty St., 3 PM. Call 824-2513 or 753-1354 for information.
- **Super Bowl Party to Aid Famine Victims:** Glide Memorial Church, 330 Ellis St., S.F., 1 PM to 6:30 PM. A donation is requested to aid famine victims in Africa.
- **On the Barricade for Abortion Rights:** panel discussion, Radical Women present a forum on abortion rights at 4 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM. A \$2 donation is requested for the forum, \$5 for dinner. Call 864-1278 or 550-1020 for details.
- **An Evening with Paul Krassner:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$5.
- **John Buccino:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Pop, jazz and classical songs performed by Buccino.
- **Chevere:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5-8 PM.
- **Aldo Antonio Bell:** cabaret, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM.
- **Tricameron:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Anna — The Journey of a Swedish Emigrant:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Linda Tillary Band:** jazz, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5 PM.
- **All Join Hands:** square dancing, 2140 Market, S.F., 5 to 7 PM. Dance with the Bay City Ramblers. Call 474-1917 for more information.
- **The Concubine at the Feast:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Drop-in VD Clinic:** sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM. Free and confidential. Testing and treatment for

WEEK



During the hit 'Clones in Love,' at the People's Theater Coalition

MONDAY 21

- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$3. Performer sign-up, 7:30 PM.
- **Joshua Rich:** music, The Plush Room, Hotel York, 940 Sutter St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. Pop, rock, jazz and improvisation on piano.
- **Reeling In the Dark With Night School:** film and stage performance, Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$3. An experimental presentation of films, dance and live music.
- **Tuffy Eldridge and Christa Hillhouse:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.
- **Something Special:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 to 11 PM. Featuring Rita Lackey.

TUESDAY 22

- **Reeling In the Dark With Night School:** film and stage performance (see Monday listing for details).
- **Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club:** meeting, Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Election of 1985 officers.
- **An Evening of Women's Comedy:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, presented by the Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights to celebrate the 12th anniversary of legalized abortion. Hosted by KPFK's Chris Welch.
- **Bingo:** Pride Center, 890 Hayes St., S.F., \$6, 7:15 PM. Cash prizes.
- **Tumbleweed:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6.
- **Golden Gate Business Association:** Installation banquet, Ramada Renaissance Hotel, 6 PM cocktails, 7:30 PM dinner, \$40 (no tickets at the door). For reservations, call 956-8677.
- **Playwriting Workshop:** winter session, 7:30 PM. Conducted by George Birmisa. Call 431-6254 for more information.
- **Beginning Square Dancing:** dance, 2140 Market, S.F., 8:15 PM. Learn with the Bay City Ramblers. Call 474-1917 for more information.
- **Lady Bianca:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.

WEDNESDAY 23

- **Artists Involved with Death and Survival:** stage performance, The Studio, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. A collaborative effort of 13 Bay Area Gay and Lesbian artists that delivers new insights into the deepening AIDS crisis.
- **Yoga and Meditation Class:** for people with AIDS and their lovers, 10 AM to noon. Call 921-4471 for more information.
- **International Folk Dancing:** dance class, Nova Academy, 347 Dolores St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, \$2. No preregistration necessary. Call 552-8413 for more information.
- **Fruit Punch:** Gay radio, KPFA-FM, 10 PM. Jon Sugar hosts the Rainbow Theatre coalition, comic Mario Mondelli and fiddle player Jeff Torflinger.
- **San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus:** rehearsal, Kassman Piano, 425 Hayes St., S.F., 7:30 PM. For information call 566-6496.
- **X-Posed:** stage performance, People's Theatre Coalition, Fort Mason, Building B, 8 PM. Explores issues of sex, sensitivity, and female impersonation with such songs as "Clones in Love." For ticket information, call 776-8999.
- **The God of Ecstasy:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$7 (\$5 unemployed).
- **Patty Wolfe:** cabaret, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM.
- **Bay Area Lawyers for the Arts:** lecture, Setting Up Syndicates and Dealing with Investors, with Peter Dwares, Fort Mason Bldg. B, Room 300, 7 PM.
- **Nancy Shallman:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.
- **The Concubine at the Feast:** stage performance, \$8 and \$9 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Artists Involved with Death and Survival:** stage performance (see Tuesday listing for details).

THURSDAY 24

- **Come Out! Salsa Picante:** dance and benefit for Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention and the Victorio Mercado Brigade to Nicaragua, Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St., S.F., 9 PM to 2 AM, \$6-\$10 sliding scale. Special guest appearance by Sistah Boom. Information, call 552-1492 or 626-4888.
- **X-Posed:** stage performance (see Wednesday listing for details).
- **Two Prima Donnas in Need of Attention:** cabaret (see Friday listing for details).
- **Tricameron:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Anna — The Journey of a Swedish Emigrant:** stage performance, \$10 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Sonja Mahoney:** cabaret, Buckley's, 131 Gough, S.F., 9 PM.
- **The God of Ecstasy:** stage performance (see Wednesday listing for details).
- **Dream Analysis Workshop:** Great Outdoors presents a 3-hour workshop with Brian Evitch starting at 7 PM, \$1 members, \$3 non-members. Call for details and location, 567-6150.
- **All-Male Strip Show:** Renegade, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 10 PM, no cover.
- **A Name You Never Got:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Gas:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Beginners Square Dance:** free introductory classes, YMCA, 220 Golden Gate, S.F., 7:15 PM. Call the Western Star Dancers at 864-6134 for more information.
- **Torch:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.
- **The Concubine at the Feast:** stage performance, \$8 and \$9 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Yoga and Meditation Class:** for people with AIDS and their lovers, 7 to 9 PM. Call 921-4471 for more information.
- **Couples Group II:** ongoing drop-in support group for persons with AIDS and their lovers, Pride Center, 890 Hayes St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM. Call 821-8830 or 558-9644 for more information.
- **Writing Workshop:** for seniors 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7 PM. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call George Birmisa at 431-6254 for more information.

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CABARET

Unlimited Partnership

Whether It's Creativity, Business, or Love, Romanovsky and Phillips are a Pair

by Bob Woolhouse

Opposites attract or so goes the axiom. Birds of a feather, etc., goes another. In the case of Romanovsky and Phillips, both principles apply.

Regarding appearance and personalities, the pair could hardly be further apart. Regarding music and performing, they could hardly be more together.

It is the resulting delicate balance that seems to make the difference.

They create an interaction of personalities and talent. This helps place them above other successful folk singers who are only the sum of the parts, who just play and sing at the same time in the same place.

Their gentle humor and poignant songs comment upon the wonders as well as the difficulties of being Gay and out of the closet. Their point of view is simply the reaffirmation of Lesbian and Gay pride; be all you can possibly be, with an honest identity, not one worked up for public consumption.

One part of the team consists of Ron Romanovsky, a self-taught musician from Pitts-

*Two very different lives
I'm happy with my lover
You seem happy with your wife
We are two grown men
Trying to pretend
That nothing ever happened
That we were only friends
Then, in an entirely different
vain, is "The Prince Charming
Tango."
And I thought you'd be
taller...*

was in Golden Gate Park, but not the way you think. Paul, on a bus, locked eyes with Ron on a bicycle. The bike kept pace with the bus, and Paul simply got off. Thus began a personal, a creative-artistic, and a business relationship that keeps gaining momentum.

Regarding the business part of their lives, Romanovsky and Phillips have been their own agent since they first got started



Romanovsky and Phillips with some of their fans (Photo: Rink)

burgh who, in his basketball sneakers, firmly implants himself stage right with his acoustic guitar, his songs, and his air of quiet understatement. Sashaying around the stage left is Paul Phillips, a P.K. (preacher's kid) by way of West Virginia with a Goldie Hawn demeanor, doing the harmonizing vocals in outrageously glitzy costumes topped off with opera-length rhinestone earrings. Gay stereotypes? Not really. Just be yourself.

Their show last week at the Valencia Rose celebrated the release of *I Thought You'd Be Taller*, an album produced by Romanovsky and Phillips under the own label, Fresh Fruit Records, now available at Old Wives' Tales and Modern Times bookstores. It features many of their original and most successful numbers, including "Best Friends."

*We were best friends
Doing things kids do
And no matter what you'd
like to think
We were lovers too...
Now we are two grown men*

*I thought you'd be rich
I didn't think you'd be moody
And at times a bitch.
I thought you'd be brilliant
A real Einstein
But you'd rather watch TV
Than challenge my mind
I thought you'd be happy
And never complain
But you're so neurotic
You make me feel sane...
But don't fear, my darling
'Cause you know it's you I
adore
And I know you can't be
blamed
If at times you're a bore*

The audience at their sell-out show was an encouraging mixture of Lesbians and Gay men who responded enthusiastically to what Romanovsky and Phillips were saying in their songs and dialogue. The pair seem to have the ability to communicate successfully with both segments of the community.

And where did these two divergent spirits meet and form this unusual partnership? The Music Department of Ohio State? A Gay pride rally in the East Village? No. Actually, it

at the Valencia Rose more than three years ago. Ron, an ex-secretary, and Paul, a music major, do all the clerical, administrative, planning, and financial work that goes into a nationwide tour.

They seek out and contact potential producers in each city, set up contacts, arrange concerts and dates, provide publicity, and finally jump into their car and take off. The route may be Boston, Des Moines, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Seattle, and back to San Francisco.

Last June the schedule became so hectic it was necessary to fly from city to city, where they did 20 concerts in 18 days during the month celebrating Gay pride.

All well and good, but after that, how do you go out and produce your own record without specific experience in such a difficult, competitive business? They listened to the advice of Frank Zappa, who told them not to get an agent or a record producer, and not to canvas the big record companies. Learn to do it yourself and keep control



Romanovsky and Phillips show off their album (Photo: Rink)

of your project, he said.

So Ron and Paul settled down to working out their own funding, doing the budgeting-expense control, entering into contracts for studio time, programming, distribution, and finally the all important publicity work. The results are entirely professional. Ron points out, however, that the business part of the total work effort now takes up 90% of their time.

After last week's overflow audience at the Rose, they have been scheduled again this Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Their next appearance in the Bay Area will be Feb. 1, in Berkeley at La Pena Cultural Center with Julie Fjell. Then, after a brief tour, it's back to San Francisco and the Valencia Rose from Feb. 14 to 16.

Romanovsky and Phillips, an unlimited partnership, have done what everyone wants to do: they have gotten their act together—the performing one that works so well on stage, the

business one that provides a structure, and finally the personal one at home. For two young men who sing the "Outfield Blues," they've managed to cover all bases:

*... They split us up into
teams
No one wanted to get stuck
with me
So I'm as far as I can be
I'm in the outfield
Try as I might
It's an uphill fight
And I never can catch the
ball
Each time we arrive
At choosin' up sides
I'm kept standin' against the
wall
I'm up at bat but it won't be
long
'Til I'm back where I can do
no wrong
All alone to sing my song
Here in the outfield*

Romanovsky and Phillips
Valencia Rose
Feb. 18 and 19; 863-3863



Romanovsky and Phillips (Photo: Rink)

An Important Story

by Terry Baum

Ronda Slater has an important story to tell and, in *A Name You Never Got*, which is currently playing at the Valencia Rose, she tells it with passion and insight, laced with liberal doses of wit and humor. It is the story of a young, unmarried woman who gives up her baby for adoption but cannot give up her connection with the baby; a woman who searches for and finds her child 18 years later. It is Slater's story and the story of thousands of other women who, for whatever reasons, decided not to keep the children they bear.

How strange I've never heard

this story, such a common one, told before. Perhaps because it is so much a woman's story, and, until recently, no one thought women's stories worth the telling, but how wonderful that Slater has opened her heart and soul and life to us now.

Slater's past experience as a performer and writer is as a poet and a stand-up comedian. Both these skills stand her in good stead in this, her first one-woman theater piece. Those who have seen her before in *Adventures of a Fed-up Woman* are familiar with her ability to slash her own experiences and society's foibles into tiny,

excruciatingly funny pieces. But, unlike most other comedians, Slater always had the ability to show the pain beneath the humor so that the audience not only laughed but *felt* with her. She was never *just* funny. She could also be poignant or sad or angry. Her ability to guide her audience through a kaleidoscope of human emotions and keep us greatly amused at the same time comes into full play in *A Name You Never Got*.

This is a rousing, thrilling show, chockfull of suspense, complete with villains and heroes. In the former category, we have Mis Dogoodie, the social worker at the adoption agency who "cares so much" for her Poor Innocent Girls ("PIGS, for short"). And then there are Cookie and Larry, the upstairs neighbors who befriend pregnant Ronda even though she reveals she lied to them about having a husband in Vietnam ("somewhere around Danang"). There is a touching gem of a scene in which Slater plays the hospital nurse who brings Ronda her baby to look at—but not to touch—despite rules that forbid a "relinquishing mother" from seeing her child. And

through it all, there is Ronda, sometimes howling in protest at the indignities forced on her, but often floundering as she is pushed and pummeled by forces of biology and society over which she has little control.

I laughed a great deal while watching *A Name You Never Got*. Slater's witty appraisal of her therapy stays with me: "If you think you're depressed now, wait until you get in touch with your feelings." And I cried, I cried tears of anger at the suffering and isolation imposed on people who break the rules—and tears of joy for the great strength and love of Ronda and the people who helped her in her journey. For this is a story with a happy ending.

I saw the show opening night, and the production was not without important flaws. The first act was far too long. Slater has always had a dry, understated manner as a performer which perfectly suits the intense emotion of her material. But on opening night, her pacing was sometimes off to the point where she seemed to be sleepwalking through the performance. Her grasp of the demanding role she created for herself seemed to get better as the play unfolded.

Slater's strong physical presence was thwarted by the tiny stage which was crammed with furniture and props, making any movement awkward. And the lighting cues appeared inexplicable and bore little relationship to what was happening onstage. These are typical problems in a new show, and I heard from Slater that much cutting and tightening went on during the first weekend, so the most serious difficulties will hopefully be eliminated for the rest of the run. A more permanent problem, which I'm sure contributed to Slater's uneven performance, was the noise coming from the show taking place across the hall. The Valencia Rose has done a real disservice to its audiences and the artists who perform there by cramming two performing spaces into a building with no soundproofing between the rooms.

Despite these drawbacks, this is a beautiful, moving, hysterically funny production, and I urge you to go see it. Ronda Slater has the courage to tell her story as a birth mother, and the talent to tell it beautifully. ■

A Name You Never Got
Valencia Rose
Through Jan. 26; 863-3863

High Standards

by Bernard Spunberg

Bursting with feelings and ideas, Athol Fugard's *Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act and Shirley Lauro's Open Admissions* are currently in production at the One Act Theater Company.

Fugard, the great South African dramatist of apartheid, is famous for *Master Harold and the Boys*, *Blood Knot*, and numerous other works. In *Statements*, as in other plays, Fugard explores not just the horror of apartheid, but the beauty of human emotion and integrity thriving despite all odds.

Directed by Simon Levy and Joseph Christensen, *Statements* depicts a white librarian and a black school principal carving out their own private paradise in the midst of hell. The play's collage-like structure allows for the examination and re-examination of their relationship from various points of view. They speak of themselves as black and white, as man and woman, as lovers, as adulterers, as fugitives, and as fighters against their own internalized racism.

Maureen Coyne and Gordon Pinkney find both sweet passion and stark terror in the sprawling, complicated script. Totally nude for most of the play, Coyne and Pinkney still need to clarify the different levels of trust, warmth, fear and defiance through which the characters move.

Open Admissions, directed by Carla Sarvis, finds strength in brevity. A white, female, middle-aged college instructor is locking up her office when she is stopped by a young black man. Despite his illiteracy, he's been admitted to college on an "open admissions plan." No matter how much or little he prepares his assignments, he gets a B on everything. He knows something's fishy, so he confronts his teacher.

The teacher is terrified. She thinks she's about to be murdered. The boy is enraged. He thinks white culture is about to rip him off again, this time of an education.

The play depicts two people, each conditioned to fear and hate the other, struggling to communicate. At the end, both take halting steps toward a common ground.

Wanda McCaddon and Melvin Thompson underline nuances of feeling that make this tiny, simple play take wing. Ellen Shireman's bold, imaginative lighting conjures musty academia vividly.

Always good and frequently excellent, this double bill is fully

up to the One Act Theater Company's high standards. ■

Statements After an Arrest and Open Admissions
One Act Theater Company
Through February 16; 421-6162

High Standards

by Bernard Spunberg

Statements After an Arrest and Open Admissions

One Act Theater Company

Through February 16; 421-6162

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TALES OF TESSI TURA

Hunchbacks on Parade

GEORGE HEYMONT

One of the more bizarre problems involved with being an opera junkie is that one tends to re-experience key productions of certain operas time and time again as the seasons roll on. Any opera company which invests money in building sets and costumes for work from the standard repertoire (*Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *La Bohème*, etc.) is going to want to amortize its costs by stretching the use of that production over as many seasons as possible. Occasionally, a company may tour to different cities, thus bringing its vision of a particular opera to multiple audiences. Constant cast changes take a steady toll on ensemble work. And today, since many sets and costumes are rented or shared by a wide variety of opera companies, if an opera-goer travels to another city his chances of suffering an acute case of *deja vu* are pretty steep.

Too often, the situation one faces upon getting reacquainted with a production is akin to receiving hand-me-downs from an older brother or sloppy seconds from a sexually exhausted lover. Much of that vital electric energy—the freshness accompanying the element of discovery which is so crucial to the creative process—has long since disappeared. What remains behind is a nice, fairly functional theatrical experience which unfortunately lacks the dramatic punch or sexual tension of the original. In stage terms this means a carefully conceived production has been handed over to another stage director who is given a prompt book, an abbreviated rehearsal period, and told to pray that the people in the chorus remember most of the blocking. I don't have to remind too many readers of this column what it's like to have sex with someone whose mind is concentrating on his grocery list rather than on the

matter at hand.

PRESERVING PONNELL

Many of designer/director Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's productions go through this process of diminishing artistic returns. When Ponnelle is on hand to direct—and while the creative energy remains strong—there is a noticeable difference in the overall quality of the product and the amount of dramatic tension onstage. Alas, having finished his initial chores, Ponnelle often lets his assistants recreate certain set packages—a form of artistic subcontracting which is loaded with peril. When Ponnelle's *Rigoletto* production debuted here in 1973 with a cast headed by Sherrill Milnes, Giacomo Aragall, and a soprano billed as "the Polish nightingale"—who, incidentally, has never been heard from again—the vivid theatricality of the production had an awesome effect on San Francisco audiences.

The 1981 revival, which was directed by one of Ponnelle's henchmen (Grischa Asagoroff), proved to be a pathetic dud which raised severe questions about how well this production of *Rigoletto* could weather the test of time. This past season Robin Thompson took over the directorial chores and, although Ponnelle's original film sequences for Act III were scrapped, most of the evening—including the chorus' intentionally exaggerated camping—was dramatically clean and clear-cut.

As the Duke of Mantua, Dano Raffanti cut a noble figure, but often chose to mark his way through the music. Ingvar Wixell's usually fine *Rigoletto* was occasionally strained and surprisingly docile. Leslie Richards' Maddalena was purely summer camp stuff. Alas, the principals suffered the

usual problems of keeping pace with Kurt Herbert Adler's Mississippi mud tempos. So what else is new?

However, I must confess that Luciana Serra's *Gilda* was superbly sung—which truly caught me by surprise. Last year I had lunch with a tenor who complained that the only way he was able to get the woman to take her eyes off the conductor and interact with her colleagues was to keep pinching and goosing the soprano whenever they were onstage together. Yet, on this night, Serra was a most convincing artist whose *Gilda* was one of the best I've heard in recent years. Although her acting may be a bit mannered, she is a true canary fancier's delight.

RECAPTURING CORSARO

Having been present on March 20, 1969 when Frank Corsaro unveiled his *Rigoletto* production before New York City Opera's audience and, having certainly seen it enough times in the 15 years which have since elapsed, I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the performance I caught last October while in New York. I must admit the hints of black leather thongs and legstraps worn at the Duke's party—which, when I was in college, seemed so titillating—were indeed rather tame by today's South of Market standards.

Recreated by Raymond Menard and conducted by Mark Flint, this production belies its age. Lloyd Evans' unit set still works well and Jose Varona's costumes remain most



How not to dress for success. The court jester (Ingvar Wixell) learns the sad facts of life in the royal court during Verdi's *Rigoletto*.

effective. Frederick Burchinal's court jester was a solidly sung and a well-acted portrayal of the title character. Young Stephen Dupont, who sang Sparafucile, continues to impress me. Jerry Hadley's Duke of Mantua was another example of this fine artist's steady growth. Veteran Susanne Marssee's Maddalena was a vivid contribution to the proceedings. Making her City Opera debut as *Gilda*, soprano Joyce Guyer revealed a sweet, well-trained voice, and a most appealing stage presence.

The use of English subtitles was an added benefit although, to be honest, some pretty campy bondage fantasies made me lose my composure in the final act when *Rigoletto's* warning to his daughter, "I should take this Adonis of yours, toss him in a sack, and dump him in the river," was flashed on the screen over the proscenium.

I just love all these new insights into opera! ■

BACK TO BATON

Random Harvest

PHILIP CAMPBELL

Thea Musgrave's *Viola Concerto* received its San Francisco Symphony premiere recently, with principal violist Geraldine Walther tackling the soloist's duties and the composer herself on the podium.

I include myself among the many listeners who found much to admire in the piece, while admitting strong reservations about the actual performance.

Musgrave's intention to create a music of "controlled chaos" and an atmosphere charged with theatrical tensions is evident in every page of her score. To actually add dramatic action independent of the music seems unnecessary at best and downright embarrassing in performance. Well known and respected as she is, it seems the author doubts the clarity of her writing and seeks to explain it further by providing us with visual aids.

Walther gamely followed the composer's instructions by turning to the violas at one point and playing as though in conflict with her fellows. Their rehearsed response was to rise menacingly from their chairs and play "against" her. This may have helped to alter the tonal quality of the music, but it did little to illuminate the score. Walther then turned beseechingly towards the conductor who shrugged as if to say, "You bit it off, now chew!" This was also an obviously intentional moment of "spontaneity."

That the piece worked as well

as it did is a tribute to the talent of Thea Musgrave, composer. The re-positioning of orchestra members shows a healthy interest in experimentation, and the expressed intention to give musicians a role in plotting the structure of the score seems pioneering, though hardly radically new. Since the *Viola Concerto* seems to be successfully thought provoking and full of lovely moments of lyrical declaration, one can only hope future performances will allow the score to stand on its own considerable merits and forego the lame dramatics.

I must add what a pleasure it is to see two women center stage at Davies Hall, giving a premiere performance of a major work. Walther's accomplishments are a matter of record with Bay Area audiences, and Musgrave looks comfortable indeed with a baton in her hand. I look forward to the time when seeing a woman conductor will seem unremarkable.

Berkeley composer Ingram Marshall's "Fog Tropes," first heard in 1982 as part of the Symphony's "New and Unusual Music" series, opened the concert, and proved to be an ingratiating if slight evocation of fog as "primordial mist."

Originally conceived as accompaniment for a performance piece, it serves as a pleasing curtain raiser and is, no doubt, even more effective when coupled with Marshall's longer "Gradual Requiem." I have not heard

the "Requiem" as yet, but it is available on New Albion records with "Fog Tropes" and, based on the recent hearing, I intend to explore the recording as soon as possible.

The rest of the evening was devoted to a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral," and while it was a thoroughly creditable rendition as conducted by Edo de Waart, and expressively played by the orchestra, it could only serve as a conventionally agreeable close to a concert that was far more interesting during its first half.

Last week's subscription series concert at Davies Hall happily restored some of my confidence in the integrity of Symphony audiences. What I originally feared would be a fiasco proved to be a complete triumph, relished by musicians and observers alike. Of course, it helped that the performance of Alban Berg's *Three Pieces for Orchestra* was exceptionally persuasive and thrilling for its sheer sonic power.

Berg's writing has historically galvanized audiences. The man who provoked riots in his day still has the ability to shock, but when he's presented this convincingly he can excite a usually staid crowd, like the regulars at the Symphony, to lusty shouts of bravos and three curtain calls for Edo de Waart. The music sounds as raw and powerful today as it must have when first heard in its complete form in

(Continued on next page)

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FROM FIFTH POSITION

Breakin' Post Modern

KEITH WHITE

Choreographer Nina Wiener and her six-member company made their first Bay Area appearance in several years last week-end, bringing two new works and a third which had been very popular during her last visit. Somewhat past the point of being considered avant-garde, Nina Wiener does work in a movement language which is resplendent with nuance, "state-of-the-art," one might say—and yet distinctively hers. And of all the New York post-modern choreographers, Nina

Wiener's style is the most graceful.

Wind Devil (Part 1, 1983), is set to a whirling modern synthesizer score by Sergio Cervetti. Long, looping phrases of movement characterized the opening section for the whole company, images that reminded me of the random, backtracking motion of tumbleweeds. Wiener moves as freely on the floor as standing upright, making more actual body contact with the floor than anything going today—except perhaps break dancing. The



Thomas Grunewald in Nina Wiener's "Wind Devil."

Baton

(Continued from previous page)

1929. The passage of time has not dimmed the brilliance of the writing or the visceral response it evokes. Like Stravinsky's seminal "Rite of Spring," the Three Pieces will always sound new in spite of its age.

The unique demands of Berg's genius requires committed playing, lots of solid technique, and more than a little bravura. It's not surprising that Maestro de Waart shows an intelligent understanding of the composer's vision; he has demonstrated many times his flair for the modern repertoire. It is heartening to see the cumulative effects of his tenure here blossoming during his last season into a wonderful rapport with his performing forces that can yield an irresistably satisfying experience, true to the writing and individual in interpretation.

Opening the concert with Franz Schubert's seldom heard but thoroughly delightful Symphony No. 6, was a clever move by de Waart that warmed up the audience with something relatively obscure but comfortably romantic. The Sixth may seem unjustly neglected until it is compared with Schubert's great masterpieces. It inevitably shrinks in relationship. Still, it is charming music, and the fresh and buoyant performance not only justified its inclusion on the program, but gave an illuminating glimpse into the development of Schubert at an important turning point in his career.

The second half of the bill was given to Robert Schumann's beautifully eloquent Cello Con-

certo, proving once again that good things do come in small packages. For all of the economy of means and compression of ideas, the concerto is a wonderfully lyrical piece that manages to say a great deal in a surprisingly short time.

In order to be more than simply pretty, Schumann's writing requires a virtuoso capable of serving the rigorous technical demands and displaying cogently the organic unity of the piece. Lucky us to have a cellist of Yo-Yo Ma's stature to perform the concerto convincingly.

Ma has already endeared himself to Bay Area audiences with previous appearances that prove him capable of superior insight and the possessor of a uniquely sweet tone and uncanny timing that lend authority to everything he endeavors. His performances on recordings thus far lean heavily toward the chamber repertoire and they are excellent, but it is gratifying to know his obvious affinity for the Romantics will one day be captured on disc, with all the wondrous advancements of modern technology adding to their excitement.

THIS WEEK AT THE SYMPHONY

Edo de Waart conducts soprano Jane Bryden, pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy, and the San Francisco Symphony Chorus (Vance George, Director) in performances of Gabrieli's *Canzon a 12*, the premiere of Andrew Imrie's *Requiem*, and the *Piano Concerto* of Johannes Brahms.

P. Campbell

dancers tumble smoothly to and from standing positions in complex undulating phrases as the dance changes its gravity. A solo section danced by Thomas Grunewald was as exciting and grueling as anything in recent memory, and ensuing sections presented further solos and some supporting partnering. The piece ended with a Wiener trademark: solos standing in one place; short poems of upper body movement containing the most eloquent arms and hands to be seen on a contemporary stage.

Kemo Sabe, which Wiener performed here in 1982, is as amusing as it is complex—beginning with a 24-count phrase of movement repeated in canon and in unison, accompanied by a spoken narration describing the Old West. Cowboy gestures inspired the second half of the dance, which was composed of a funny complicated percussion trio for three seated dancers, who create a long rhythmic cadence by clapping their own and each other's hands and stomping their feet.

The program ended with a work reconstructed from a piece Wiener made for the North Carolina Dance Theatre (which performs at Zellerbach Hall at the end of the month). Place of Shadow makes clear references to Flamenco dancing and even bullfighting, yet Wiener chose a contemporary score for voices, piano, and percussion by Meredith Monk, a choice much more aligned with her personal rhythms than with Spanish ones. Summing the entire range of Wiener's style and devices, the supported duet for Byron Richard and the wonderful Erin Thompson was a complete surprise, tactile and erotic in a way that represents the most major change I see in Wiener's work.

■

Freddie Long went crazy with her famous interpretation of the hula-hooping Circe of Homeric myth, but Long's insanity is old news. As graceful and funny as ever, Long now resembles the

little Winged Victory sculpture on Rolls Royce radiators.

Byron Brown's virtuoso solo, "Silence is the Father Into Black," was scored for audience giggles. As with Mann's "Isthmus," the narrative was difficult to make clear sense of. Brown's personality, however, came through strongly. Apparently exploring and extending the boundaries of abstract emotional expression, Brown captivated the audience with lightning shifts of character, whimpering appeals to a father, harranguing in gibberish, and exquisitely controlled physical slapstick. We also noticed his sex appeal.

The program began and ended with a duet and a trio, both clearly in the traditional contact improvisation style. A little bit balletic, a little bit gymnastic, John LeFan danced with all his body all the time. His movements expressed an integrated quality, a feeling of fresh and unexpected ideas following one another from a central source that needs no urging. LeFan's interactions with Long and Mann generated patterns beautiful for their expressive content as well as visual fluidity.

These six pieces were not exactly *A Chorus Line*. They required a committed, intelligent, creative involvement by the audience. They were not intended for innocent bystanders. ■

PERFORMANCE ART

No Innocent Bystanders

by Bernard Spunberg

'These six pieces were not exactly *A Chorus Line*.'

Wacky but disciplined, Freddie Long, John LeFan, Byron Brown, and Sara Shelton Mann performed at the New Performance Gallery from Jan. 9 through 12.

The performers were accompanied by guitarist Alex DeGrazi and flutist Larry Kasin. The six pieces on the program strengthened the artists' identities as creators unafraid of silliness, seriousness, and even momentary failure in their cultivation of heightened communication.

"Walking in the Backfield" was a scream. Mann and Brown danced and spoke a dialogue for two souls lost in the backfield of life. Commenting on passing groups of men, women, and green cars, Mann and Brown suggested that people conventionally called crazy may not be crazy at all. Maybe it's the rest of us. The duo achieved elegantly ordered harmony and counterpoint at the climax, dropping several pearls of wisdom along the way. Here's one: Don't let your first conclusion be the place where you simply got tired of thinking.

"Isthmus," a new solo by Mann, was pretty tough. Accompanied by drumming and whispered incantations, Mann walked on metal bowls, danced before straw baskets, and sort of went crazy with two sticks.

Freddie Long went crazy with her famous interpretation of the hula-hooping Circe of Homeric myth, but Long's insanity is old news. As graceful and funny as ever, Long now resembles the

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1984

You Are Watching
Big Brother

British director Michael Redford's 1984 version of George Orwell's 1984 is a victim of the very song it sings. It's so relentlessly grim and monotonous in spirit that even while we appreciate the true-to-novel depiction, we are lulled into boredom because of it.

Filmed in color but mainly in tones of concrete grey, 1984 more than ever conveys the metaphors of the time in which Orwell wrote the novel, directly after WWII. This is a film about tyranny over mind and body in general, but it's really a history lesson in the methods used by Hitler before and during his reign of demagogical power.

It's a world where even children serve as spies, where language is systematically destroyed in favor of Newspeak—a way of speaking specifically designed to prevent expression of ideas—where bombs constantly fall on the city with no warning and no certainty as to who the enemy is, where every person is under the constant surveillance of two-way telescreens, and where thoughts other than the Party's are punished with torture.

John Hurt, who has proven his brilliance as an actor in *The Naked Civil Servant* and *The Elephant Man*, is in virtually every scene of 1984 as Winston Smith, a man of the State who harbors the secret thoughts of love, lust, and happiness. Whether it's the script or the direction that undermines him, Hurt cannot carry this lead. He doesn't seem strong enough, even in appearance, to convince us of what he's doing. Richard Burton is a Party bigwig who, like Gays new to a city, has his way of identifying who is different in the crowd. His last role



Richard Burton (l.) and John Hurt in the most recent film adaptation of George Orwell's 1984.

before his death is short and without much distinction, delivered as it is with an insistent monotone similar to the setting.

The dismal milieu created so perfectly in the film, with its war-torn streets and buildings and its cold and claustrophobic interiors, not only communicates oppression, but makes us feel unwillingly imprisoned in our theater seats. After an hour of this nearly two-hour ordeal, we feel a physical need to escape.

While the book offers us valuable messages about the human spirit, the film does not.

Just like the book, 1984 the film is more about the past than the future. In 1985 it seems like such an anachronism to see a horrific film about the year we saw completed that the entire enterprise is more a trivial pursuit than a relevant comment. ■

(Check listings) M. Lasky

The Go Masters

Games Orientals Play

The Go Masters is an epic which brings 32 years of Sino-Japanese history down to a personal level where it can be understood. As China and Japan go to war with each other, individuals and families are caught in the middle, not unlike Americans during our Civil War.

energy into playing go. Even this is no refuge, as the Japanese try to make him change his nationality when he wins a championship.

After many years and many deaths, the surviving members of the two families are reunited. Kuang and Matsunami find that they, unlike their nations, can still resolve their differences over the go board.

The Go Masters is a fine piece of traditional filmmaking,

'A co-production of China and Japan, it shows no scars of the logistical nightmare such an undertaking must have been.'

Kuang (Chinese) and Matsunami (Japanese) meet in 1924, instant soulmates because of their mutual passion for the board game, go. When fighting breaks out in China, Kuang sends his son A-Ming to live with Matsunami in Japan, both for safety and the advanced study of go.

Years later Japan invades China and A-Ming feels called to return and fight for his country, in spite of having married Matsunami's daughter. He tries to sublimate, like his father and father-in-law, by putting all his

well photographed with a bit of travelogue appeal beyond its human and historical interest. A co-production of China and Japan, it shows no scars of the logistical nightmare such an undertaking must have been.

Perhaps *The Go Masters* offers a simplistic view of international relations, but with the Olympics turning repeatedly into a game of political football, perhaps it's time Reagan challenged the Russians to a game of Pac-Man. ■

(Lumiere) S. Warren

A Hill on the
Dark Side of
the MoonThe Other Side
of the Molehill

Like its protagonist, *A Hill on the Dark Side of the Moon* tries to submerge its passions in a sea of words. Sonja Kovalevsky, a century ago, was the first woman to teach mathematics at the university level. Beyond her unique achievement, which spoke for itself, she had no interest in women's rights. She had been married but she'd never been loved, so by her mid-30s (she died at 41) that became her goal.

Unfortunately, the closest she came to achieving it was with an intellectual who thought he wanted a woman who was his equal until he found that the only such specimen was too strong to be forced into the mold he had for her. She was as frustrated by his lack of emotion as he was turned off by her jealousy.

Both were Russian by birth but most of their time together was spent in Sweden, so it fell to Swedish filmmaker Lennart Hjulstrom to tell their story. His style maddeningly mirrors the duality of the characters, alternating long conversations in which love is theorized to death ("Do you love me?" "A mathematician shouldn't ask questions that can't be answered.") with lyrical passages that are either silent or feature Sonja reading poetry.

This is apparently intended to be a modern "woman's picture," for women who are or want to be liberated but still enjoy a good cry at the movies.

Maxim is played by Thommy Berggren, remembered from *Elvira Madigan* and *Joe Hill*. He presents his views in a lecture in which he equates a breakdown of the class system with the equalizing of the sexes and predicts that when both are accomplished, "We shall see new kinds of relationships ... new kinds of families ... Marriage in the future will be voluntary ... only love will keep couples together."

That ties in pretty well with our agenda, but 100 years later it still hasn't happened. ■

(Surf) S. Warren



Go for It!—To Easterners the game of Go is no trivial pursuit. Here are two of *The Go Masters*.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

SPORTS & FITNESS

FITNESS EIGHTIES

The Gym Owner Who Dives

Dick Ferris is Nobody's Fool

by Paul Trefzger

Dick Ferris is the 31-year-old co-owner of Gold's gym. He was born in Sioux City, Iowa. He's good looking, trim, and muscular, and may be best remembered for capturing the gold medal in the 1982 Gay Games for diving in his age group.

"I'm probably unusual in that I'm a gym owner whose major sport is diving," Ferris said. He began at age seven and then competed and won all through school. He attended the University of Arkansas on a diving scholarship and was an NCAA finalist all four years. I'd heard he was a gymnast and figure skater.

"That was for fun," he said. "When you're on a scholarship, they won't let you do anything else. I was owned by the university for four years."

I also had heard he studied psychology.

"Oh, I've used it in business and in public speaking," Ferris said. Public speaking for Ferris was for a Gay rights group in Portland, Oregon where he was a diving instructor after college. "It was the Anita Bryant era and I came out on a TV talk show. I was asked to be on because I was a member of a speakers' bureau. I did it because I was a Gay teacher and a Gay athlete." I asked how his going public impressed the faculty at Lewis and Clark College where he was coaching diving. "It was rocky for awhile, but the school let up. I had said, 'Three weeks and it'll blow over and I'm still the best diving coach in Oregon.'

"I got in on the Games at the very beginning and probably wanted it to happen more than anyone short of Tom Waddell," Ferris said of the Gay Games I. "I remember in January of '81 sitting in Tom's kitchen wondering, 'How are we going to get this thing off the ground?' and then at the closing there are 12,000 people in the stands, 1,400 athletes from all over the world, and not a dry eye in the place. The bus committee, the interpreters. It was such an in-

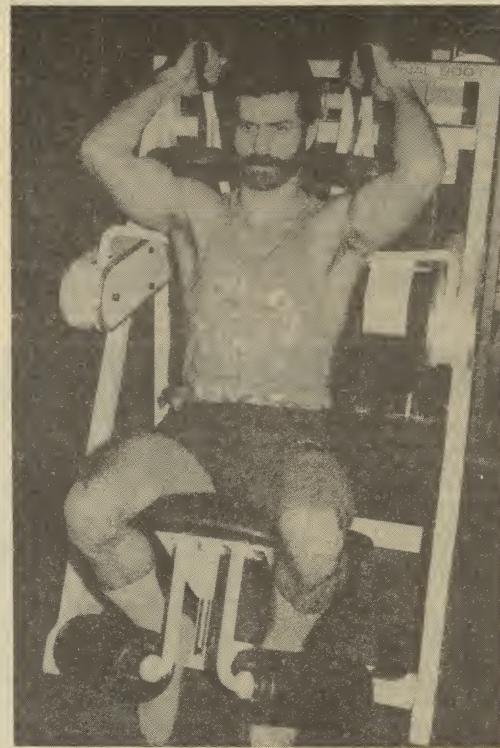
credible machine ... so beautifully orchestrated.

Ferris served as the International Sports Chairman and was San Francisco's Diving Chairman. We competed in diving (and won) and MC'd the bodybuilding.

"I plan to be involved in Gay Games II, but in a lesser capacity," Ferris said. "I will be diving. You know, I've been in national and international contests since I was ten, and I'd never been so nervous, because this was something I had a stake in, had been planning for years. It was an oversold house and it was in my home town."

Ferris spoke of his fitness routine.

"When I can get away from the phone (at Gold's) I work out four times a week," Ferris said. "It's a split routine (different body parts each time) and around 7 or 8 o'clock. Let me lecture a little here. 'Stretch! Stretch! Stretch!' It's so important, particularly before you work out. It's for viscosity. The warm-up produces lubricating fluid in the joints. Sports medicine people say 90% of all shoulder injuries are the result of not properly warming up. It's the most common. Knee injuries are a distant second. I start out



Dick Ferris works out at Gold's (Photo: Rink)

by concentrating on my mid-section and shoulders ... about ten minutes. I do my abdominals every day. Let me talk about that because I have the best stomach in town. A new study out of Stanford substantiates what I've said for years, 'Don't do sit-ups.' It's bad for your back. It doesn't help your stomach and it thickens your diaphragm and makes you look fatter ... so why do it?"

What then does Dick Ferris do for his stomach?

"Crunches," he said. "On a crunch machine, or lying down with your legs over a bench. But, the most effective is 'legs raised' either hanging from a bar, or in a 'high chair.'

"O.K., the first day," Ferris continued, "chest and back. Now this is important. With all

my exercises I do three sets of decreasing reps—this works for me—of increasing weight. First, bench press; 10 reps, 8, then 5 or 6. I increase the weight 10 to 15 pounds. Then incline dumbbell press, Nautilus flies, machine pullovers. I recommend this between chest and back exercises when someone's doing them together. A lot of people don't work their back correctly. Every exercise they do should come from a different angle. I do four back exercises counting pull-overs, cable rows, wide grip pulleys (overhand to chest) and reverse grip (hands together) pulls.

"Second day, legs. Believe it or not ... I've loved to do squats." I pointed out that probably they're not well liked because they seem dangerous. "We have a power rack," he said. "It's a good invention. It's safe. And it spots you. I do stiff legged deadlifts (with dumbbells bent forward, then straighten them up). Then I do leg extensions and leg curls."

"The third day is arms. Most people do too much. I do standing barbell curls—on these I alternate bicep to tricep—cable push downs, incline dumbbell curls, French presses (in-line hands together on barbell, lying on back), preacher curls (over bench/EZ curl) and Nautilus tricep."

"Fourth day, shoulders, calves, neck, and forearms. For shoulders I do lateral raises, which is the most important (dumbbells to side), reverse flies (dumbbells, bent over) and shrugs." After I discussed the machines and exercises with him, Ferris paused and then said, "Nobody knows what really works to make calves grow. Try anything, and as much as you can." For his neck, he uses the Nautilus forward neck machine, and when I asked about forearms, he said, "Forget it. I lied. I guess I should do something for them."

Ferris doesn't have to watch what he eats.

"I eat lots of chocolate," he said. "I've been blessed with a very good metabolism. You know, I look at Gay people and we have a better sense of our bodies—I guess I'm sexist—and it surprises me to see what junk some people have in their shopping carts at Cala."

"There's so many different training routines, different things you can do when you're working out, but this is really important. Take one body part at a time and work it completely. You can do everything in a couple of hours, but don't hop around from machine to machine just because it's empty," Ferris concluded.

COMM. SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Here Comes the C.S.L.

With the holiday season behind us, it's now time to look toward spring, sunshine, and softball. Each year, as I start to write this first article, I get the feeling of *deja vu*. In the off season there is always the renewed rumor from a couple of negative people that the demise of the Community Softball League of San Francisco is near. This year is no exception, but even worse, it has been reported that we do not have the right to exist. It's difficult for me to understand anyone's intolerance, especially Gay people in a city of tolerance and understanding that is ten light years ahead of the rest of the world. The sin we seem to be committing is Gay, straight, and bi-

sexuals playing softball together, as well as socializing in the bars after the games with no regard to each other's sexual persuasion. It makes one wonder if these individuals refuse to watch the 49ers since they don't know the players' sex habits. In the past 13 years the C.S.L. has become a well-respected organization throughout the city, and has grown in competitiveness, as well as the better understanding and respect of each other. I think I can speak for the league and say to the small-minded people that would like us to fold up our tent and go away, the answer is a resounding no. Hopefully this subject will not have to be addressed again.

Now I'll rap up the successful

1984 season, the thrilling finish, the banquet, and the most successful Golden Gate Tournament yet. Listed below are the winners of the 1984 All Star Awards. A special award given at the banquet was a lifetime membership to our leader George Zepp, Jr. George has been commissioner for the past three years and on the executive board for the past six years. The other recipients of this prestigious award are Jack "Irene" McGowan, Harry Smith, Chuck Eargle, Sharon McNight, and myself. Mama McNight returned to San Francisco to the delight of her many fans, and throughout the holiday season sang her heart out and did non-

(Continued on next page)

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JERRY R. DE YOUNG

LES BALMAIN

How to Choose a League

Having concluded a less-than-extensive personality examination of the three Tavern Guild Leagues—conducted with an imprecise gauge over an unsufficient time period—and having combined this definitely disputable data with a one-person-per-league poll, the findings can now be made public.

The outstanding league characteristics are: the Monday League has the most good-looking bowlers psf; the Wednesday League has the most good bowlers psf; the Thursday League has the most affluent bowlers psf.

Considering the above outstanding league attributes, it should be pretty simple for anyone contemplating joining a Tavern Guild Bowling League to choose the league that is best suited to his own personality.

ability, or social status. Of course, if a person happens to be good-looking, a good bowler, and rich—as is the predicament in which so many of us find ourselves—then the only sensible solution is to join all three leagues, thereby, to use an appropriate softball term, gaining the assurance that every base is covered. (Why would they cover the bases? Unless, of course, the game is over?)

Be that as it may, while one cannot print pictures of every handsome bowler, one can, however, print proof of the Wednesday League's cited conspicuous characteristic, the marvelous 200+ bowlers for 1/9/85.

Ralph Bremner 246
Adrian Stenson 212 237
Hank Given 230
Bob Mack 225

Andres Colon 224 212
Greg Cassinelli 221
John Parry 217 212
David Hobler 216
Mikel Lindzy 214
Ray Padus 213
Tom Sipple 212
Jack Hait 211
Steve Keyvinski 211
Dick Bruen 210
Doug Quick 202 208
Lew Watson 205 202
Don Latt 204
Rob Mallin 202
Allen Price 202
Skip Christian 201

Well, guys, you've done it again. This number of 200+ bowlers surpasses the previous number by two. In addition, the Play With It, Ltd., Japantown team and the Pilsner Potlickers join our fine Park Bowl team as one on which all members have realized a 200+ game. ■

CORNER POCKET

14th Season for Gay Pool

Los Angeles captured its second West Coast Challenge title Jan. 11, 12, and 13 at West Hollywood's Four Star, as the Four Star defeated San Francisco 12-11 in overtime. Match results: L.A. 9-S.F. 7; L.A. 9-S.D. 7; S.F. 12-S.D. 8; L.A. 12-S.F. 11.

At presstime, names of the top four individuals were not available, but the best SF finisher in singles competition was Bill Kazee, who finished 5th. WCC XI will be held in San Francisco next July.

PARTY AT CHAPS

This Saturday the San Francisco Pool Association distributes dozens of trophies and close to \$2,000 in prize money when the league honors the cream of the crop—those who rose to the top in various team and individual events throughout the Fall '84 season.

The awards presentation and party is being held at Chaps—fast becoming the favorite spot for S.F.P.A. events—beginning at 7 p.m., preceded by the league's first broomstick tournament at 3 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

"How can I join the league?" Well, if you've been asking that question lately, your timing is good. Several teams are looking for players, and this season there are even sponsors looking for entire teams. The deadline for signups is Jan. 29, when team registration takes place at Amelia's (647 Valencia). The six-month membership fee is \$20.

One good way to get a foot in the door is to be at Chaps this Saturday evening and make your presence known. Another is to play the Monday evening

tournaments at The Bear (7 p.m.). Or, simply start playing a lot of pool in one of the S.F.P.A. sponsor bars. You can also leave your name and number of the league's answering machine (J-O-E P-O-O-L). Although the league is an invitational organization, anybody who really wants to join can find a team.

How good to you need to be? This may surprise you, but skill doesn't matter. Most of the league's members have no serious aspirations about the game itself. It's fun—something different for a Tuesday night, and a chance to socialize with people who enjoy playing pool in some of San Francisco's finest Gay bars.

Team play is based on a 16-game grid, with four player positions. Each position plays all the other positions on the opposing team during the match, and teams are limited to six players. Some teams have a solid four starters, rarely using the other two, while other teams carefully allow equal play for every member. Some teams fight tooth and nail to make the playoffs (the top 12 teams) while others just play their games and enjoy themselves. There's room for everyone. ■

GENE MILLER

The fiscal year of the Gay Tennis Federation of San Francisco is from October to October, and the Tennis Year of 1985 started Nov. 17, 1984 with the installation of the newly elected officers; President, Grant Trent; Vice President, Neil Johnson; Secretary, Bill Reynolds; Treasurer, Bob Viereck and Sgt. at Arms, Dan Hartstuff. The installation was held at Sutter's Mill, concluding the ceremonies of the G.T.F. annual awards banquet.

"The Executive Board, with a mixture of old and new members, is eager and excited to project one of the best years in Gay Tennis for 1985," said Trent. We hope to work hard and to extend opportunities for participation to all our tennis players.

The Calendar of Events for 1985 includes the following: year-round individual competition on the Challenge ladder, 3rd Annual Palm Springs getaway for February, 3rd Annual Doubles Tournament in March, 5th Year of Team Tennis from April thru August, 5th Annual

U.S. Gay Open National Tennis Tournament held at Golden Gate Park Memorial Day weekend, 6th Annual Los Angeles vs. San Francisco Team Tennis Challenge on July 4 weekend, 4th Annual Grand Prix Tournament in August, Team Tennis Championship playoffs in August, 6th Annual Membership Tennis Tournament in September, 2nd Annual San Diego vs. San Francisco Team Tennis Challenge in September, 34th Annual Russian River Getaway in September, and 4th Annual Awards Banquet in October.

Recruitment for new members and renewal of old memberships is underway. The annual membership fee is \$24 and people interested may call Bill Reynolds' secretary at 563-3084 for information and application forms. Or better yet, attend our next regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. at Ivy's, Gough and Hayes, which will include a free buffet hosted by owners Grant Trent and Todd Faulstich. ■

SCOREBOARD

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD BOWLING LEAGUES

Team Standings and Personal Achievements

TAVERN GUILD		THURSDAY TAVERN			
WEDNESDAY LEAGUE		GUILD LEAGUE			
(Week 11 of 21 - as of 1/9/85)					
1. Park Bowl	34	10	1. Queen Mary's Pub	38	14
2. Pilsner II	30	14	2. Pig Pins	32	20
3. Play w/It, Ltd.!!!	27 1/2	16 1/2	3. The Krew	31	21
4. Pendulum	27	17	4. Bracco Dist.	30 1/2	21 1/2
5. Cafe San Marcos	25	19	5. White Horse	29 1/2	22 1/2
6. Pilsner Pinguinettes	25	19	6. Fourplay	28 1/2	23 1/2
7. Can We Bowl?	25	19	7. Four Keeps	27	25
8. Pilsner Pint Sisters	24 1/2	19 1/2	8. Ron Records	26	26
9. Pilsner #1	23	21	9. Schmidt Insurance	26	26
10. Pendulum Pieces	23	21	10. Trax	25 1/2	26 1/2
11. Pilsner Sneeze Balls	23	21	11. C.D.C.	25	27
12. Pendulum Potlickers	21	23	12. Febe's	24	28
13. S.F. Eagle	20 1/2	23 1/2	13. EJESP	23	29
14. Animals	18 1/2	25 1/2	14. Park Bowl	22 1/2	29 1/2
15. S.F. Eagle #2	18 1/2	25 1/2	15. The Special	21	31
16. Sweet Inspiration	18	25 1/2	16. Trax Maniax	20 1/2	31 1/2
17. Grady's	18	26	17. Four Little Pigs	20	32
18. Sunshy's Toothfairy	18	26	18. Floppy Disks	17	35
19. PWL1/Japantown	17	27			
20. Ram's Head Bar	17	27			
21. D.Kelsy's Unmnntbls	15	29			
22. Scenic Hwyway Tours	14	30			

(Continued from previous page) stop fundraisers for so many charities in the Gay community at large. Sharon has done more charity work than anyone I can think of, and she deserves a standing ovation from all of us. Congratulations to George Zepp and the C.S.L. for their David nominations. Just being nominated is an honor.

In November your managers held their elections for your 1985 Executive Board. I will be your

Commissioner again, Walt Long, Assistant Commissioner, Jim Redpath, Secretary, and Peter Storch, Treasurer. Our first business meeting will be held Jan. 19 at 1 p.m. at Jack's Happy Daze on 19th St. This meeting is open to all managers, players, sponsors, and anyone new is welcome to attend. Good faith payment is due and it is \$100.00. Managers, bring your players interested in being on a committee. Goooooo Niners. ■

R. Soto

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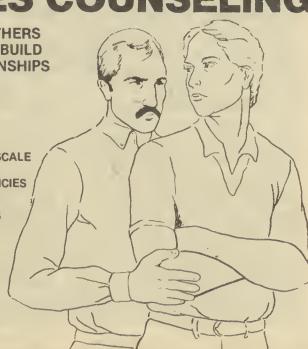
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BAY AREA REPORTER

B.A.R. BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS



The Bartenders' Follies

You may or may not have noticed the frantic activity going on around your favorite bartender, whether he's north or south of Market St., or east or west of Van Ness. The truth of the matter is that they are all secretly practicing or involved with MEN BEHIND BARS II, the annual bartenders' fundraiser. Producers Mark Abramson and Jim Civanich have been holding all sorts of conferences with set designers, costumers, musicians, composers, sound and lighting men, and every available talent in the community. The bartenders are studying choreographic routines, and special music is being written for the 18-piece orchestra that will accompany the shenanigans onstage.

If you missed seeing Men Behind Bars last year LIVE, and even if you saw the video of it, you could not absolutely savor the very essence of a night that will never be forgotten. And if you were lucky enough to get one of the 500 tickets last year, and if you've already purchased your ticket for one of the three forthcoming performances next month, you are in for an even bigger surprise. The production this year seems to be more polished, but without losing that seedy flavor and campiness that prevailed last year. Due to last year's success, a lot more people want to be involved, and our lovely bartenders have "come out of the closet" so to speak. This is no Davies Hall grand production. It's pure and simple camp and circumstance with a few frills thrown in here and there. The tickets went on sale last Thursday, and I wouldn't be surprised if the show is almost sold out already. There'll be three performances this year, to wit: Sunday night, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m., Monday afternoon, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m., and again at 8 p.m. The tickets are \$12, period, if there are any left. All cast members are reminded that a Special Meeting will take place this Saturday afternoon, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. at M&M Studios, 10 Rogers St., when all acts to be included in the show must be present (or send a representative). The final running order of the show will be set and rehearsal schedules established. So don't miss this important meeting. As for the rest of you, don't miss Men Behind Bars II!

★ ★ ★

Looks like the coming weeks are going to be busy ones for everyone that's involved with practically everything. The SF GDIs celebrate their 11th Anniversary at the TRANSFER this Sat., Jan. 19 at 8 p.m., and Grand Duke Michael Bowman and his Duchess Trixie Trash will present a special showing of AFTER DARK (the Swedish drag extravaganza) at the Alcazar Theater that same night at 11 p.m. with the ducats going for \$18.50 as a benefit for the S.F. AIDS Hospice. Steve Iacovino celebrates his "somewhere between 30th and 40th birthday" Saturday and his sister Maria, Miss Upstate New York,

is NOT flying in for the occasion; the "serious" ones about football will be attending special Gay parties for all those going to the Super Bowl the next day (Go 49ers!) and Jim Anderson & Bill Barker, those two nifty guys from Walnut Creek, are coming into town to terrorize the dudes at the SF-Eagle and the 1808 Club afterward; this Thursday night, Jan. 17 and on Thurs,

there may be some even bigger surprises than the ones already on the agenda. It will be a hot show and for a first, consider that the MC's for at least half the show will be a man and a woman from South of Market, no jiving! The nominations for the Barbary Coasters Motorcycle Awards on Sat., Feb. 16 are due in next week, and from what I hear, there will be some



Rod Bentzinger (l.) and Bob Hall at the Eagle (Photo: Rink)

Jan. 31, the ARENA resumes its 1986 Bare Chest Contests with CASH prizes every other week. Two contests will be held each month through July, at which time Mr. Bare Chest will be named from all the finalists and will win \$1,000 in cash and be in the 1986 Color calendar. This sounds great! Mt. McNasty will be MC'ing the contests each time. On Super Bowl day, CHAPS will feature a free buffet and champagne for all the jock activists, and all around town many bars will be featuring Super Bowl parties. Patrick Toner, who has quit tending bar to attend culinary arts school, will throw a party at Chaps Fri., Jan. 25 at 9 p.m. entitled, "A Totally Tasteless Affair" with prizes and surprise entertainment (not the Erotic Leather video). Chaps will also soon begin its Poster Man of the Month contest each month, but stay tuned for the commencement date. The Coronation of the Imperial Emperor and Empress of San Francisco will take place on the 9th of February with Rich and Remy taking their last bows and two candidates for each title battling it out between now and then. I hear the Cable Car Awards tickets are sold out completely, and if everyone plays their cards right,

surprise nominees in certain "show" categories and of course, Ken Devin, an independent, is a shoo-in for Bike Rider of the Year. Men Behind Bars captures the attention span of every "aware" queen in town on the 17th and 18th, and if there's anything going on on the 23rd, it better be an affair where you can sit down, lay down, or fall down to rest! I won't even mention what's coming up in March; I really don't want any of you to have a stroke.

★ ★ ★

Last weekend, if you were up around 10 a.m., you probably saw a few biker/leather/preppie personalities on Channel 7 answering phones for the United Cerebral Palsy Telethon. David Sarathian of the CMC, Ken Wright (candidate for Emperor) of the Barbary Coasters M/C, and Jack Coates of the Constantines were all on-camera with Allan Hemming (Independent and CUTE) and the Prince de Topaz Phil Slatin doing the honors with such personalities as Supervisor Hongisto, the Perverts, Quentin Kopp, and other Bay Area personalities. The only reason Vern Stewart wasn't there was because he's trying to get his bike out of HOCK, if you

(Continued on next page)

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Duke Armstrong (l.) and Les Bruno auction off a quilt at the DeLuxe (Photo: Rink)



Chris Puccinelli auctions off a leg lamp at the DeLuxe (Photo: R. Pruzan)

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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

know what I mean. Butch Free-man was looking down in the dumps when he finished his final shift at the Eagle last Sunday evening. "What? Not even a going-away party for my departure to LAX?" (excuse me, make that Pasadena). What His Nibe Butch didn't know is that they planned it for Tuesday night—and it was a festive occasion. Sunday night, several of the "faithful" trekked over to the BRIG for Colt Model Night. Now nobody told me, nor did I read anywhere that Colt Models would be on hand in person or LIVE, so I don't know why everyone was calling me Monday because only a few posters were up and calendars were being sold for \$5. Anyway, a big mob there that night. Limping or no, Randy Johnson managed to get his buns down to the End Up for the Jock Strap Dance Contest, and Mike Appleby of Boston found true love at 38 Bonview Street for the entire weekend with one of our "STELLAR" personalities, (read it again, hon!) from a

South of Folsom bar. The men and women who are officers and deputies of our Police and Sheriff departments gathered to pay homage to the life of one of their fallen brothers. If I had his complete name I'd print it here ... I only knew him as Gil ... a true role model of a Gay man who succeeded where no one could have thought of succeeding in years gone by. My sympathies to his lover, John, who was surrounded by his uniformed brethren on Wednesday night at Chaps for the tribute

That's it for mid-January,

boys and girls. Until next week, then, remember: All Orgasms are created equal. See you 'round the campus.

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FRIESE FRAME

49er Fever

MARK FRIESE

Super Duper Sunday is upon us, and—unless you're one of the privileged few who have tickets—there is no doubt all of us will be firmly planted in front of the boob-tube at one of the many spaces available throughout the city. Trax on Haight Street will show the game and feature free hot dogs. Stop by Trax during the day Tuesday through Friday and have a drink with Marc, as he always has a festive crowd.

The Transfer, Castro Station, Pilsner, New Bell, Ginger's, S.F. Eagle, Kokpit, Renegade, and a score of other bars, all will show the game, and at some you will get a free schnapps with each 49er touchdown and others will feature different specials. But the cheers will all be for the same team, our own 49ers—except for those few recalcitrant Dolphin fans.

The David Awards will be held this Saturday at 7 p.m. at Rags on Fourth Street. The cost is \$15 and tix are available at the door or at the David Society office on 18th Street below Castro. Michael Buckley has lined up some great cabaret entertainment for this event, and it promises to be a fun evening.

That same evening, Grand Duke Michael Bowman and

Grand Duchess Trixie Trash will present a benefit showing of the uncensored version of *After Dark* at the Alcazar Theater. This starts at 11 p.m. and there is an \$18.50 donation which goes to the S.F. AIDS Hospice. Tix are available at the Village, Kimo's, and the S.F. Eagle.

Nominations are now out for the Cable Car Awards. Congratulations to all the nominees and a special thank you to the Cable Car Awards Committee for the nomination of Bar Wars. Special thanks to all the people and bars that helped make this such a great fundraiser.

Coming up Feb. 1 will be a walkathon for the Godfather Fund of Ward 5-B. This is being presented by Tommy Turner, Candidate for Emperor, and will start at the Men's Room at 7 p.m. and go through the Castro, Folsom, Polk, and Tenderloin, with the final stop being the Mint.

Answer to last column's question is that Steve has been at the Fickle Fox for seven years, and there is not going to be a new western bar opening called the OK No Checks Corral. Good name for a bar, though.

David Kelsey has returned after his tour in the East, and is back at the New Bell Saloon Wednesday through Sunday.

Bob Sander is playing at the Bell on Monday and Tuesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. as well as Friday and Saturdays from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Revol in Oakland. Thanks to Ralph, Peter, George, and the other members of the Revol family for stopping by the New Bell this past week, and no, I didn't tell that person how to get there by BART.

The first meeting of the year for the Tavern Guild will be an overnight trip and meeting to be held at the River Village at the Russian River. This will be Tuesday the 22nd, and if it's anything like the last overnighter it's sure to have some great stories involved with it. For easy reference on the last trip, just see Carrot Top or Big Bird.

Joan Rivers was reported to have said that she wanted to give her daughter a religious name so she named her Bingo. Well, for all of you bingo buffs out there, you are hereby notified that the Pride Center, 890 Hayes (at Fillmore), has Gay Bingo games every Tuesday evening. Warm-up games start promptly at 7:15 p.m., and there's lots of cash prizes to be had.

Tonight at Amelia's, 17th and Valencia, there will be a benefit auction for Gay Games II. Tom Vindeed and Chris Puccinelli will be auctioneering, and this all starts at 8 p.m.

Good luck to Tommy Turner, Ken Wright, Sissy Spaceout, and Collette, who are all vying for either Emperor or Empress this year. You are sure to be seeing a lot of people over the next month.

Go 49ers.

BAY AREA REPORTER JANUARY 17, 1985 PAGE 26

BLACK LASHES



A Race for the Crown

KARL STEWART

The Imperial Race for Empress and Emperor is officially on. Last Wednesday, a sassy review board from the combined Emperor, Empress and Tavern Guild board sat upon the stage of the Casa Loma Hotel. It was Emp III Bob Cramer and Bob Ross who kept the questions heated.

Saturday eve was the Introduction of Candidates, which is traditionally held in the tackiest hall possible . . . in this case Hungarian Hall, which resembles your high school gym (circa 1922, sans basketball hoop). You have a healthy, hard-working crop of candidates this year. Miss Colette La Grand sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in a black sequined gown finished with black feathers. She

his company of muscle men in rail gear formed a (John Scott) train, complete with moving wheels, cab, hub, and stack. This was the evening's best choreographed presentation.

Jose, Empress I (After Norton) has taken a very active role in the events surrounding this year's election to be held at Japan Town Theater, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. She introduced the four candidates Saturday night, and the following day she led the Imperial Family in an elaborate celebration of the beginning of the third decade of Empress' ruling here in San Francisco. The exhibit of memorabilia of those 20 years opened at Atlas Savings at Duboce and Market and will hang for 31 days. Jose toasted the

The two empresses missing from the show in all but one group shot were Rebba and Jane Doe. Those who have been close to the 20th year festivities have been director Chuck Largent and his friend and fellow Santa Cruz John Quinn, as well as Empress Phyllis. These folk will offer another grand event at our beloved Hungarian Hall. The Imperial Ball will be presented in the traditional manner with names only announced at the door and a live orchestra for dancing pleasures. All this Feb. 8, Friday before the coronation, and voting on Saturday. The cost is only \$6 and drinks will be a buck.

This campaign will also be surrounded by celebrations of/



Emperor/Empress candidates Colette (l.), Tommy Turner, Sissy Spaceout, and Ken Wright (Photo: Rink)

has been involved in the court trip for years and has been very near the throne for the last several reigns.

Sissy Spaceout, a protege of Empress Ginger (who is engineering her campaign this year) has been this year's Crown Princess. She has proven herself a hard working and innovative contributor to the Gay community. She chose "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" as her introduction performance, accompanied by four hunks in pink carrying her huge rose colored spaceship. The company of 14 black and pink confetti-tossing choristers just wanted to have fun, too.

The two "male" title seekers are very much more closely matched: Tommy James is the longtime head of The Mint's mighty staff and a past officer of The Coits (Rich and Remy both belong). He is the only candidate to have run for both titles; he ran as Trixie, two years ago.

Ken Wright is the recently stepped-down Grand Duke of San Francisco. He has been a member of Barbary Coast MC for some time and has a wonderful record of solid administration. His reign with Grand Duchess Sable, I believe to have been so successful, was because he allowed her to shine in the limelight while he quietly kept meticulous track of the books. Ken was never very good on stage until now, but recently he has been taking theatrical lessons in secret (only a rumor, of course). For his performance we were treated to "Good Morning America" during which he and

crowd with California wines and European cheeses and a 30-minute talk of all those years and in her words, "A lotta camp."

Photos in the gallery were hung a little like high school campaign art, noted in blue magic marker, but the point was well made. Twenty years of hard work and fundraising for charities as far ranging as Senior Dinners and the March of Dimes to the contemporary AIDS causes, were chronicled. And of course, as Grand Mamar says there was "Camp," like the stepping down of Bob Ross, grand and imperial, or the State Crown of the Empress in a case by the front door with the official orb, cup, and of course the State Spurs(?).

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, Jan. 17: Arthur Evans Presents The God of Ecstasy, Valencia Rose, 8 p.m., \$7. (Also Jan. 18, 23, 24, 30 & 31).

Friday, Jan. 18: IC/Sissy Spaceout Blastoff, Kimo's, 8 p.m., show. Bare Chest Contest, Arena, 9 p.m., MC = Marcus.

Saturday, Jan. 19: SFGDI's 11th Anniversary, Transfer, 8 p.m.

David Awards, Ragg's (22 4th, 8 p.m.), \$15, show, buffet.

After Dark Benefit Performance, (Grand Dual Council for SF AIDS Hospice), 11 p.m., \$18.50 (tickets: Kimo's SF-Eagle, and Village)

Super Sunday, Jan. 20: Tailgate Parties, 12N: Trax (drink w/ TD, buffet), the Village (drink w/ TD, pot luck), Moby Dick's (BMary specials),

for Rich and Remy and their reign. Last week it was Kimo, his staff and crew, who mounted a fond toast to the R&R on the 1st Anniversary of their crowning. Ms. Sissy Spaceout organized a rather unusual show which included Empress Ginger doing "How Great Thou Art" dressed in black, as well as Empress de Chicago Joanna doing Bette Midler, doing Sophie, "Oh Ernie!!" Male entertainers are coming of age: Grand Duke Michael pulled a reverse strip ale AT&T to "Wichita Lineman." Look for more parties honoring R&R in Karl's Calendar; they'll be happening all over town during "Hell Week."

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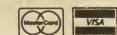


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DUTIES: Task include clerical and typing duties
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Incumbent will be working as part of a case
management team and should be able to com-
municate effectively and work cooperatively with
a small group.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or
equivalent. Typing skills of 55 wpm is required
to qualify for position.
JSP GRADE 5: In addition to the above, need
two years of general office experience.

JSP GRADE 6: Two years of general office experience
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Grades above JSP 6 require additional years of
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FLILING INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must obtain an application from the
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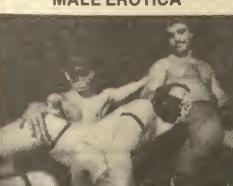
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